

THE  
GRYPHON



2019/2020

**A**s a small kid of perhaps 5-6 years old, in a different century, in a different world, my home was in the centre of town, in a narrow street of six-story houses.

It was not a very desirable neighborhood, being close to the harbor and bus station. There was a profound number of girls on the street, all in heavy makeup and light clothing. I thought that they looked nice with all their colors and they were nice to me.

I was just a kid. What did I know?

Most of the people in our building were interrelated, so I guess that Father's Day could be a confusing day to celebrate.

My home was not a musical home. There was no TV, just a broken radio that I do not recall working at any time, but my mother would sing sad songs in the kitchen, mostly local songs from her childhood, now lost and forgotten.

Right across the street, there was a popular nightclub call Pan-Am, with live music almost every night. The house band was a famous jazz band called Papa Bue's Viking Jazz band, their signature was Viking outfits and a talent for consuming enormous amounts of beer, while playing traditional jazz.

On warm summer nights, my bedroom window was open and the bands would play until the wee hours. My only volume control was the opening angle of the window.

I would lie in my bed and listen to the music. It was pure magic. The sound would enter the room like a wave of music that every night would lull me to sleep in a small boy's dreams of weird and wonderful creatures, each singing with his own voice like the instruments in the band playing. I had never

seen live music and did not know what the instruments looked like.

It was a time that I shall never forget and something that somehow was defining for my future. In the afternoons, the band would rehearse new material while struggling with hangovers. From the street, I could hear them and the music was drawing me like a magnet and I found my way up and listened in the doorway. They found my presence amusing, I was clearly their youngest fan and they started spoiling me with cookies and lemonade and told me about the different instruments, it was a professional band but they loved their job and

wanted to share their world with a little boy that was mesmerized by it.

Even at that early age, I had a very vivid imagination and music was conjuring images in my mind, an ability that followed me the rest of my life. Later in life, I made most of my paintings while listening to music. I flew a hang glider from the peak of Kitchbuhler horn in Austria, with Mahler in my headphones, a perfect soundtrack for an amazing visual experience.

The band asked me if I would place flyers on the windscreens of the cars in the area, to promote their band. After checking with my mom, I was allowed to cover the nearest three blocks, to be sure that I could find my way home.

I had just got my first job in the music industry.

It actually took a very long time before I developed any interest in reproduced music, partly because I did not have the money.

While I studied art, I worked as a roadie for a band and part time as a bouncer at a local music venue. I never saw any real action – I just stood in the corner looking sinister, but I heard a lot of live music and most of my friends were in the music world. Most of them had stereo systems. They were nothing impressive, but they had great record collections that we listened to endlessly. When I finally was bitten by the hi-fi bug, I went all in, upgrading and experiencing as much as financ-

es allowed (and beyond). I even modified products to squeeze out extra performance.

Looking back, I now see that the equipment became more important than the music, the music almost became an excuse to listen to the stereo and have something to compare to. When we were groups of hardcore audiophiles at our sessions, we compared one piece of electronics with another. Rarely did correct reproduction of any live event enter the heated discussions. There were even those who claimed that stereo playback was better than the live event.

Recorded playback often had "better" soundstaging, "better" depth of field and the discussion was endless. Reproduced music almost took on a life of its own with no connection to reality, but more to an idealized perception of reality.

A friend of mine made many recordings with a Nagra setup and a "Decca tree" - a three-microphone configuration. We listened to the recordings and the fun was me guessing the recording location. Years later, I acquired a unique collection of master tapes, mostly Decca studio masters from 1950-1970. Despite their old age, they had so much realism that I got goosebumps every time I heard them.

To many fellow audiophiles, they were disappointing, as they lacked the pinpoint soundstage accuracy that an 80-channel recorded mix would have. Most of the recordings of the day, when Deutsche Grammophon led the pack in multi-mike, multi-channel recordings, had artificial soundstages created in the mix. But there were some great live classical recordings and I had many of them on tape.

As rock music embraced multi-channel technology, multiple individual tracks from different locations would be mixed to create an event where we audiophiles would discuss whether the musicians were standing in the right position on the stage or how many fillings the female singer had in her mouth. There never was a stage to begin with, but the illusion was often very clever.

I founded Gryphon with a mission of making "correct" sounding products, not to create any artificially attractive illusion, but in essence, a naked reproduction of the actual recording, good or bad.

This philosophy was the cornerstone of Gryphon's universe. We made many products that sounded "nice" or "impressive" but it was usually the prototype with a (upon first impression) more humble presentation, that would grow on you. It was "right",

inviting you to play more and more records and finally would end up as a Gryphon.

This no-hostage take on the idea behind Gryphon took a while for people to accept and it was not for everyone, but it was for enough to found a company that now has existed in 32 years and continues to fill me with pride.

Last year, I came home from a trip to Asia with a severe illness and months later, I woke up one morning with no hearing in one ear

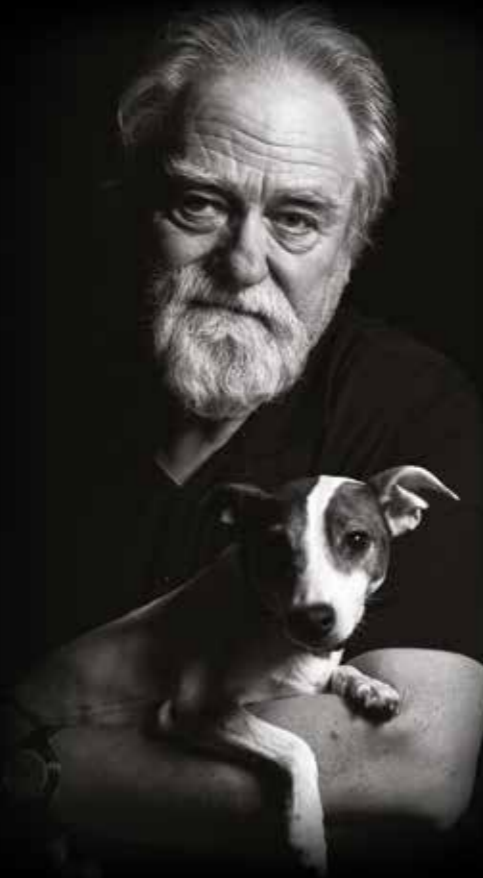
It was gone for good, it was terrible for me, and forced me to retire from Gryphon.

At first I felt that my life was over, without stereo in my life, but what happened over the next year changed my priorities, in a way my priorities in music changed.

The stereo was gone, but I found a less complicated way to enjoy the music, and was able to do away with all speculations of whether it sounded correct, I could simply just enjoy the music and the interpretation in its purest form, because the best music always shines through and beyond the technology.

I will always miss the performance from a Gryphon system and a lifetime spent with it, but somehow I have re-discovered the true love of music that I had through that bedroom window so many years ago.

The circle is complete.



Flemming E. Rasmussen  
Founder of Gryphon  
April 2019

# Gryphon Mephisto Solo

## Monoblock Power Amplifier

### THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE...

*Or maybe they just meant that it shouldn't be done in a prevailing climate of global financial meltdown. In either case, anyone even remotely familiar with the workings of the mind of Gryphon founder Flemming E. Rasmussen knows that this is exactly the kind of challenge on which he thrives.*

While other High End manufacturers are quietly closing up shop or reluctantly downsizing their ambitions in concession to an increasingly gadgetised and commodified audio market, Gryphon Audio Designs boldly and proudly offers the world the most advanced and, yes, most costly amplification components in the brand's history.

The Pandora preamplifier and Mephisto stereo power amplifier bravely bucked current trends of austerity and restraint, opening up new dimensions in home entertainment for the serious music lover. Designed and built for the select few who can appreciate and afford this level of uncompromising musicality, the Pandora/Mephisto system announced to the world in no uncertain terms that Gryphon continues to stand by the commitment to ultimate fidelity in home audio that is the foundation of the company's worldwide reputation.

### The Next Step?

Of course, being Gryphon aficionados and,

therefore, by definition, connoisseurs of the finer things in life, Gryphon owners immediately began speculating about what the next step might be for Rasmussen and his adventurous band of engineers and audiophiles. Nothing exceeds like excess, as an old saying goes.

Now, for the most demanding among the fortunate few who make up the Gryphon audience, for that limited circle able and willing to travel with us all the way on our journey, Gryphon presents the Gryphon Mephisto Solo single-channel power amplifier.

While monoblock construction is not unheard of in the High End, most often manufacturers take the easy way out, by simply creating a bridged version of an existing two-channel product. Bridging couples the stereo channels in series to form a single amplifier with increased voltage and, nominally, more output power. Unfortunately, the inevitable side effects of this approach include doubling distortion, doubling the input impedance (impairing the amplifier's ability to drive low-impedance loudspeaker loads) and cutting damping factor in half (reducing the amplifier's control of cone motion at low frequencies).

The Gryphon Mephisto Solo elegantly eliminates these issues by running two stereo channels in parallel (not in series) for unchanged output and voltage, but double the current and half the distortion. As always, extreme high current capability is a fundamental parameter in Gryphon amplifier design.

Capable of massive current swings, Gryphon Mephisto Solo maintains the dynamic integrity of the audio signal even under the most extreme reactive loudspeaker load conditions. The extraordinary load tolerance of the Mephisto Solo means that it will bring out the best in any loudspeaker.

Isolating power amplifier channels in completely independent enclosures offers additional crucial advantages. With separate power supplies, rectifiers, regulation, preamp stages and gain stages, there is no interaction whatsoever between channels. What happens in one channel at any given time (for instance, extreme instantaneous dynamic demands) is entirely independent of and therefore unaffected by anything going on in the other channel.

Total physical separation of the channels eliminates any possibility of inter-channel crosstalk, providing infinite stereo separation. As a result, the Gryphon Mephisto Solo drives loudspeakers with greater ease, control and authority, delivering a more spacious soundstage in all dimensions, rich detail against a silent background and tighter, more extended bass. Less critically, independent mono amplifiers offer increased flexibility of placement in the listening room.

The quality of sound reproduced by Gryphon Mephisto Solo is completely level-independent. It is a huge amplifier capable of delivering its best at any volume setting, from background levels to full throttle.

### A Peek beneath the Hood

To generate and control such pure power, Gryphon Mephisto Solo employs custom designed Holmgren transformers with generous filtering capacity for high pulse current. The fully regulated gain stage power supply ensures long-term reliability and safety. The carefully regulated and filtered power supply removes harmful high-frequency noise and voltage spikes without compromising current capacity. The complete removal of mains noise enhances focus, immediacy, transient crispness and soundstage depth.

Gryphon Mephisto Solo is designed with zero global negative feedback in order to meet the dynamic demands of the very best analogue and digital source components. Exceptional bandwidth – beyond 350 MHz – is achieved despite the total elimination of feedback.

Only the finest components are employed throughout for optimal electrical and audio characteristics. The voltage amplification stage incorporates high-speed Zetex surface mount transistors with minimal capacitance and high DC current gain (Hfe) and the output stage employs high-speed Toshiba pre-driver transistors.



**"The Gryphon Mephisto Solo is part of the closed circle of the currently best electronics on the market. An exceptional product, without compromise and with a sublime look!"**  
*noir-et-blanc.com France*

A fully symmetrical, regulated low noise voltage supply has been used for all voltage amplification sections. For each monoblock, eight 56,000 microFarad capacitors with low ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) and a total capacity of 448,000 microFarad/100V smoothes the voltage to the output supply.

Static shielding isolates primary and sec-

ondary windings in the massive dual Holmgren transformers designed and built especially for the Gryphon Mephisto Solo.

By eliminating output relays, Gryphon Mephisto Solo achieves an extraordinary low output impedance. But most importantly, because output relays that can handle huge constant currents tend to have poor low to moderate signal transfer characteristics, the best relay is quite simply no relay at all.

As always with Gryphon, what is left out is just as critical as what goes in.

### Non-Invasive Protection

Mephisto Solo is equipped with effective protection against overheating, DC input offset, short circuit, RF and incorrect voltage supply. Slow-start turn-on circuitry analyzes and confirms the status of the transformer, bridge rectifier, power supply, reservoir capacitors and amplification circuit prior to full power-up and before accepting any input signal.

Because the advanced Mephisto Solo protection circuitry is kept outside the signal path, full protection is achieved at no sacrifice in sound quality.

The Mephisto Solo binding terminals are custom designed, massive, gold-plated connectors which provide secure power transfer with speaker cables of any diameter.

Like its inspiration, the Gryphon Mephisto two-channel amplifier, Gryphon Mephisto Solo is a unique design concept, destined to find a place only in the care of the most obsessively demanding music lover.



# Gryphon Mephisto

## Dual Mono Reference Power Amplifier

*As we strive to push back the boundaries of what is possible in home audio, Gryphon Audio Designs occasionally builds highly experimental testbed prototypes. We create these no holds barred components for our own edification as tools in the development and refinement of real-world products.*

These rarefied, strictly non-commercial laboratory instruments serve as an absolute reference for the current state of the art. They take no prisoners exploratory projects, built with scant regard for cost, just as size, weight, appearance, transportability and spousal approval are wholly irrelevant.

The latest of these experiments, designed with no thought for the marketplace and no intention of being offered for sale have been dubbed the Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier.

They were conceived as a no-compromise, price-no-object design exercise to be the ultimate evaluative tools, to lend new meaning to such terms as resolution, soundstaging, transparency and, especially, musicality.

But, as was the case with the now legendary Gryphon Reference One power amplifier and Poseidon loudspeaker before them, both conceived for a similar higher purpose, history repeats itself, as friends, business partners, audio journalists and other visitors respond with ecstatic enthusiasm to the performance of these components in the Gryphon showroom.

As a consequence of this groundswell of encouragement, Gryphon founder Flemming E. Rasmussen decided that it would be an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the very first Gryphon power amplifier to offer our bench tools in a strictly limited edition to the select circle of individuals who share his unwavering obsession with the exploration of the farthest boundaries of music reproduction with no concessions to cost, size, weight and fashion.

The bold lines of the custom made Mephisto heatsink profiles and distinctive sheen of the brushed aluminium housing provide a visual signal of exactly what to expect when the Mephisto is powered up in collaboration with the few audio components in the world that are worthy of its company.

Living up to its heritage as an evaluation tool, the Gryphon Mephisto is

revealing with unrivalled surgical precision, yet remains inherently musical and true to the heart and soul of the performance. Without ever losing sight of the subtlest nuances and micro-details, Mephisto maintains a firm grip on coherence, timbre and the overall musical event.

### Dynamic Integrity

As befits a product of its unique pedigree, the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier stands in a class all its own when it comes to the crucial area of maintaining dynamic integrity, regardless of load conditions.

Mephisto is built to meet the challenge of the most advanced contemporary loudspeakers which typically present vicious reactive loads while drawing huge amounts of current. The dual mono Mephisto is capable of massive peak current swings and, equally vital, can do so into very low impedances without losing its cool.

Because Mephisto's perfectly linear output impedance preserves the integrity of the audio signal unconditionally, regardless of frequency or signal level, the amplifier's exceptional load tolerance makes it an ideal partner for the very finest loudspeakers.

In keeping with long-standing Gryphon tradition, the quality of sound reproduced by Gryphon Mephisto is completely level-independent. It is a huge amplifier capable of delivering its best at any volume setting, from background levels to full throttle.

To generate and control such pure power, each Mephisto channel is fitted with separate AC power inputs and individual custom designed Holmgren transformers with generous filtering capacity well-suited to the delivery of high pulse current. The fully regulated gain stage power supply ensures long-term reliability and safety.

### Pure Power In, Pure Power Out

Since it is the function of a power amplifier to modulate the mains current from the wall socket, the presence of even minuscule amounts of noise in the mains voltage can prevent a system from living up to its ultimate potential.

The carefully regulated and filtered power supply of the Gryphon Me-

phisto removes harmful high-frequency noise and voltage spikes without compromising current capacity. The complete removal of mains noise enhances focus, immediacy, transient crispness and soundstage depth for a more beguiling and engaging listening experience.

#### Zero Global Negative Feedback

While negative feedback is a widespread means of suppressing measurable static forms of amplifier distortion, copious amounts of feedback have the unfortunate side effect of introducing an over-damped, sterile sound, because the feedback itself leads to a rise in audible, dynamic distortion.

Gryphon Mephisto is designed with zero global negative feedback in order to meet the dynamic demands of the very best analogue and digital source components. The exceptional bandwidth of the Gryphon Mephisto – beyond 350 MHz - is achieved despite the total elimination of feedback.

#### Extreme Attention to Detail

Each printed circuit board in the Gryphon Mephisto is designed to facilitate accurate assembly and precision mounting to set a new standard for mechanical and electrical stability. Ideal constant safe operating conditions for all transistors in all amplifier stages maintain consistent performance, regardless of variations in temperature or signal level.

Only the finest components are employed throughout for optimal electrical and audio characteristics, including Takman resistors from Japan, Class A dual J-FET transistors in the input buffer for speed and clarity, a balanced differential input circuit based on a single carefully selected dual bipolar junction transistor. The voltage amplification stage incorporates high-speed Zetex surface mount transistors with minimal capacitance and high DC current gain (Hfe) and the output stage employs high-speed Toshiba pre-driver transistors.

A fully symmetrical, regulated low noise voltage supply has been used

#### Gryphon Mephisto Review

**Sound+Image, Australia**

"The Gryphon Mephisto is monstrous in almost all respects: it's massively sized, heroically engineered and overtly styled. But it flies with powerful yet delicate wings – it conquers any, and I mean any, speaker load, and with transducers of equivalent stature it can convey profound sonic beauty. Yes, it is stratospherically priced, but for the lucky ones who are able to partake in such extreme audio luxuries, the Gryphon Mephisto is, arguably, without peer."

#### Gryphon Mephisto Power Amplifier and Pandora Preamplifier Review

**Stereo Prestige & Image, no. 67, 2012, France**

"In any case, in every musical parameter, these devices must be regarded as the absolute, inescapable reference. You don't have to take our word for it, but here's a piece of advice:

Once in your life, you should experience these components that challenge so many preconceived notions."

#### Gryphon Mephisto Elite award 2012

**by Super AV Magazine, March, 2013**

"Super AV Magazine in China selects Mephisto for the esteemed Outstanding overall Performance Elite Award 2012."

#### Gryphon Mephisto wins top award in Russia

**Mephisto Stereo selected for best amplifier 2012**

**by Top High End Russia.**

for all voltage amplification sections. Eight 56,000 microFarad capacitors with low ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) for a total capacity of 448,000 microFarad/100V smoothes the voltage to the output supply.

Static shielding isolates primary and secondary windings in the massive dual Holmgren transformers designed and built especially for the Gryphon Mephisto. By eliminating output relays, Gryphon Mephisto achieves an extraordinary low output impedance. But most importantly, because output relays that can handle huge constant currents tend to have poor low to moderate signal transfer characteristics, the best relay is quite simply no relay at all. As always with Gryphon, what is left out is just as critical as what goes in.

#### Non-Invasive Protection

Mephisto is equipped with effective protection against overheating, DC input off-set, short circuit, RF and incorrect voltage supply. Slow-start turn-on circuitry analyzes and confirms the status of the transformer, bridge rectifier, power supply, reservoir capacitors and amplification circuit prior to full power-up and before accepting any input signal.

Because the advanced Mephisto protection circuitry is kept outside the signal path, full protection is achieved at no sacrifice in sound quality.

The Mephisto binding terminals are custom designed, massive, gold-plated connectors which provide secure power transfer with speaker cables of any diameter.

Weighing in at a healthy 108 kg and worthy of its origins as a one-of-a-kind design concept to demonstrate exactly what can be done with no constraints or restrictions of a monetary, practical or technical nature, Gryphon Mephisto offers stunning analytical capabilities that cut straight through to the emotional core of recorded music.

Paired with the equally uncompromising Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and connected with advanced Gryphon interconnects and speaker cable, the Gryphon Mephisto will continue to define the state of the audio art for years to come.



#### Gryphon Mephisto Review

**SoundStage Network, Jeff Fritz**

"But I've never heard the equal of the Gryphon Mephisto. It combines qualities that seem clearly contradictory: it had the best bass I could imagine, yet could image as precisely as anything I've heard. It expanded the soundstage in every direction, yet perfectly retained the midrange purity of a single performer standing dead center in the soundstage. It resolved the finest details of hi-rez recordings, and at the same time presented music in a cohesive, musically enjoyable manner at all times. It was as perfect a match for the ultra-revealing Magico Q7s as I think exists today.

Flemming Rasmussen has done it again. But this time, he's done it better than at any time in the past. The Gryphon Mephisto is the best audio product that he's yet produced. If it is indeed the last Gryphon amplifier that I review, that journey ends at a high point of my electronics-reviewing career. The sound of the Mephisto will be burned into my memory for a long, long time to come."



## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Mephisto Solo

- Pure Class A 200 Watts (8 Ohm), 400 W (4 Ohm), 800 W (2 Ohm), continuous RMS
- Monoblock configuration
- Zero global negative feedback
- 80 high current bipolar output transistors
- 1,000,000 microFarad capacitor bank
- DC servo-coupling
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Output coupling via massive copper bussbars
- No output relays
- Decoupled transformer casings
- Military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards
- Optimal circuit layout for shortest possible signal path
- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding
- Separate power supplies for amp and digital circuits
- Gold-plated Neutric XLR input sockets
- Gold-plated custom-built Gryphon binding posts
- Backlit, touch-sensitive front panel controls
- 12V remote power trigger for automatic turn-on
- Automatic Green Bias setting or manual Low/Mid/High bias
- Non-invasive protection system
- Power consumption at idle below latest EU requirements
- Designed and built in Denmark

### Gryphon Mephisto

- Pure Class A 2 x 175 Watts (8 Ohm), 2 x 350 W (4 Ohm), 2 x 700W (2 Ohm), continuous RMS
- Pure Dual Mono configuration with separate AC power inputs
- Zero global negative feedback
- 40 high current bipolar output transistors
- 500,000 µF capacitor bank
- DC servo-coupling
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Output coupled via massive copper bussbars
- No output relays
- Decoupled transformer castings
- Military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards
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# Talkin' About Gryphon...

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"Under the stewardship of soft-spoken giant Flemming Rasmussen, these Danes have positioned themselves at the very top of our sector for decades."

*6moons.com*

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"Designed and engineered in Denmark by a team spearheaded by Flemming E. Rasmussen, Gryphon Audio Designs' products have always been for those who appreciate the very best. These are no-compromise objects with an artful eye in design coupled with attuned listening to achieve industry-leading results."

*enjoythemusic.com*

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"Gryphon Audio started as a hobby that today has grown to become a formidable manufacturer of source components, preamplification, amplification, speakers, cables, and a variety of other associated bits."

*enjoythemusic.com*

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"Gryphon has always meant something special. Power, dominance, and expertise are three words that come to mind. When it comes to high-end audio equipment, Gryphon Audio means highly technical meets highly musical."

*enjoythemusic.com*

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"One of the joys with Gryphon Audio products is that they always produce great detail and dynamics, yet never at the expense of sounding artificially etched."

*enjoythemusic.com*

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"Exclusive. Danish. Peak performance. That's how audiophiles view Flemming Rasmussen's prestigious Gryphon Audio Designs brand."

*6moons.com*

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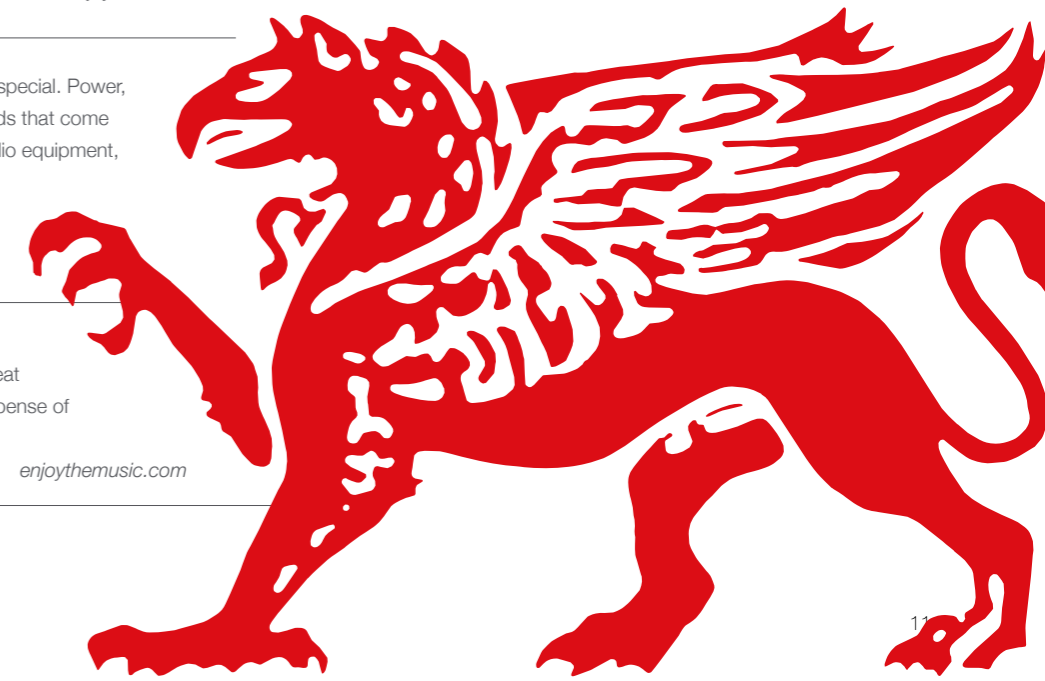
"Any Gryphon preamp or amp is a final destination point for audiophiles, both in terms of performance and price."

*audiobeat.com*

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"The engineering team behind Gryphon's speaker endeavours plays ball in the top leagues."

*6moons.com*



# Gryphon Antileon EVO

## Stereo Reference Power Amplifier



*Although we as quality conscious consumers would prefer to live in a world where product development is always guided by incremental, evolutionary improvement, most often it is driven by sheer economics. This year's model is typically only a marginal variation on last year's, in yet another thinly veiled attempt to separate the consumer from more hard-earned cash on a regular, seasonal basis.*

Among the few exceptions to this rule, Gryphon Audio Designs have never subscribed to the ritual of annual product roll-outs. On the contrary, you only hear from us when we have something truly new and original to say.

This is the simple explanation of why the Gryphon Antileon Signature (Stereo and Monoblock) Pure Class A reference power amplifiers introduced in 2000 remained available for nearly a decade and a half. Because cynical planned obsolescence is never part of the Gryphon design concept, the Antileon Signature, like every Gryphon model, was engineered and built to remain at the forefront of audio performance for many years until we were able to offer a significant step forward.

The Antileon Signature, like its predecessor, the original Antileon, was born a classic, establishing itself immediately in High End circles as one of the most acclaimed amplifiers of all time. Loyal devotees around the world praise its singular ability to maintain a firm grip on even the most demanding loudspeakers and reveal the innermost soul of any musical performance.

Now, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, available in stereo and single-channel configurations, takes the next evolutionary step.

A long time coming and well worth the wait.

### Current Events

All amplifiers are not created equal, even if their published specifications might suggest otherwise. The extreme high current capability of the Gryphon Antileon EVO, for instance, is something that must be experienced first-hand, not merely gleaned from

a specifications sheet. The wattage (W) that an amplifier is capable of generating is in fact the mathematical product of two factors, Voltage (V) multiplied by Current measured in Amperes (A).

On paper, a low-current, high-voltage amp would appear to produce the same number of Watts as a low-voltage, high current amp, but only if one does not take into account the crucial fact that the ability to generate high instantaneous current is far more critical and relevant to actual audible performance.

For this reason, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, like all Gryphon amplifiers before it, is a true high current design. With exceptional peak-to-peak current capability, the Gryphon Antileon EVO ensures compatibility with even the most viciously reactive loudspeaker loads, permitting the loudspeaker of your choice to perform at its very best.

### Unapologetically Uncompromising

Recent decades have seen concerted efforts by audio manufacturers to encourage a shift away from high-power Class A amplification in favour of newer, more "efficient" topologies with claims that they can deliver the same level of performance in a lighter, more compact and decorator-friendly form factor.

The truth behind these specious allegations and the true motivation behind the promotion of lightweight amplification are very straightforward. It is an elementary exercise in cost cutting.

As material costs (copper and steel in particular) skyrocket, designers under the "guidance" of corporate accountants have been skimping on the costly massive power transformers and banks of high-current capacitors that generate the reservoir of electrical power that ultimately becomes the audio signal that drives your loudspeakers.

But it is the size and quality of these components that directly determine the amplifier's performance potential. Heavily regulated, stiff power supply voltages and high current capability are

crucial to achieving the control and speed that translate into musical clarity and resolution.

Despite bold claims, the audio industry has not found a better way to do it, just cheaper ways to almost do it.

Unlike so many current models crippled by downsized power supplies and capacitor banks as designers struggle to mitigate the impact of ever-rising raw material costs, the Gryphon Antileon EVO employs pure Class A bias with full power instantaneously available at all times, regardless of the actual load.

TRUE, PURE CLASS A requires heavy transformers, substantial capacitor banks, high electrical consumption, lots of heat, massive heatsinks and very, very expensive parts and manufacturing.

There is no shortcut to the sheer magic of pure Class A.

### Class A Bias

Gryphon Antileon EVO employs true Class A bias for instantaneous availability of full current at all times.

Gryphon rejects any biasing scheme which attempts to simulate Class A bias by switching to a higher bias level when a more dynamic signal is detected. This type of sensor can only respond after the fact, because it is

not possible to adjust bias rapidly enough to accurately "track" dynamic changes in real time in music which is rich in impulses.

For situations in which the full power of the Antileon EVO will not be required (a small room, undemanding music, background listening, efficient loudspeakers, etc.) the owner has the option of selecting full or reduced Class A bias via front panel controls.

For a more flexible approach, when paired with a Gryphon preamplifier via Gryphon's proprietary Green Bias Link, power amplifier bias can be adjusted automatically in relation to the position of the preamplifier's volume control.

The user always has Class A power on tap as needed at any given time with massive power reserves ready and waiting.

### Deep Inside

Naturally, there is a lot going on beneath the lid of a fully discrete, pure-Class A, fully balanced power amplifier with twin-tiered banks of electrolytic capacitors connected to the mains with two power switches and two detachable power cords.

The twin custom-designed 1500W toroidal power supply transformers are mechanically isolated from the chassis. A special epoxy resin is ▶



► used to optimise vibration damping for the transformer. For additional isolation, the shielded, epoxy-damped housing is mounted in a suspension system for effective vibration control.

Apart from the shielded transformer housing, only non-magnetic materials are employed throughout the Gryphon Antileon EVO.

The separate driver section incorporates its own generous, independently regulated bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors powered from separate windings on the transformers. A unique mechanical design provides optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices.

Bypass capacitors are placed close to the output transistors, not, as is conventionally the case, right up against the power capacitors. This contributes to significantly enhanced high frequency performance.

Internal wiring is kept to an absolute minimum with only a single short length of Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver wire.

Two sets of rugged gold-plated binding posts of Gryphon's own design are provided for bi-wiring.

The multi-way proprietary terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs, banana connectors or any combination of these.

#### Diagnostics and Security

The unique, non-invasive Gryphon protection system provides reliable protection with no fuses in the signal path and without compromising signal purity and simplicity. Gryphon Antileon EVO is an exceptional powerhouse amplifier that does not require the false security of sonically degrading relays in the signal path to the speaker.

Gryphon Antileon EVO incorporates full diagnostic firmware, accessible at the press of a single button to run a series of tests to monitor proper operation.

#### Fit and Finish

Acknowledging that the Gryphon EVO will be a heavy, imposing addition to any living space, Flemming E. Rasmussen, Gryphon's founder and a trained artist and industrial designer, has styled it to

#### Remusic, Italy, Giuseppe Castelli:

*"If it were a car, it would be a Bentley, a powerful machine, which can reach high speeds but always with the smoothness, the poise, comfort and class of gentlemen's choice"*

#### High End Russia:

*"to better a Gryphon can only be a new Gryphon"*



make a bold, sculptural statement that is as functional as it is elegant.

Every chassis component is fitted to the next with extreme precision for a rigid, non-resonant structure, while each piece is machined to excruciatingly tight tolerances. The perforated top plate provides ventilation for added heat dissipation.

The faceplate is machined out of a solid 40 mm black acrylic block that houses the LED display and the easily accessible front panel controls. While an acrylic faceplate of this thickness is more costly than conventional aluminium, Gryphon's artistic souls prefer it for its high gloss sheen and striking textural contrast to the amplifier's aluminium surfaces.

With the exception of the faceplate, the Antileon EVO exterior consists entirely of brushed, black anodized aluminium with countersunk Allen screws for a seamless appearance.

At home in the finest interior, the battleship build quality combines with stylish, organic form to create an object of timeless beauty to match the exquisite pleasure of listening to music re-created by the Gryphon Antileon EVO power amplifier.



## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Antileon EVO Stereo

- 2 x 150 Watts Pure Class A
- Fully balanced input and Voltage Amplifier Stage (VAS)
- 40 High current bipolar output transistors
- 670,000  $\mu$ F power capacitor bank
- Newly developed ultrafast J-FET input stage
- Custom-developed ultra-low noise regulated power supply for voltage amplifier stage (VAS).
- DC servo circuitry with Mundorf RFXF Polypropylene capacitors for power supply decoupling
- Takman REY precision resistors
- Flat frequency response to beyond 350 kHz
- Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver internal wiring
- Custom-built separate toroidal transformers
- Shielded, epoxy-damped transformer casings suspended for effective vibration isolation
- Separate power supply for display and control circuits
- No output relays
- Frequency-independent damping factor
- Proprietary Gryphon double binding posts
- Automatic Green Class A bias setting or manual Low/High bias selection
- AC power status and polarity display
- Rigid mechanical structure
- Microprocessor-controlled non-invasive "smart" protection system
- Double sealed, mil spec PCB with 105  $\mu$ m copper traces
- Upgradeable microprocessor software.



# Gryphon Antileon EVO

## Monoblock Reference Power Amplifier

*Although we as quality conscious consumers would prefer to live in a world where product development is always guided by incremental, evolutionary improvement, most often it is driven by sheer economics. This year's model is typically only a marginal variation on last year's, in yet another thinly veiled attempt to separate the consumer from more hard-earned cash on a regular, seasonal basis.*

Among the few exceptions to this rule, Gryphon Audio Designs have never subscribed to the ritual of annual product roll-outs. On the contrary, you only hear from us when we have something truly new and original to say.

This is the simple explanation of why the Gryphon Antileon Signature (Stereo and Monoblock) Pure Class A reference power amplifiers, introduced in 2000, remained available for nearly a decade and a half. Because cynical planned obsolescence is never part of the Gryphon design concept, the Antileon Signature, like every Gryphon model, was engineered and built to remain at the forefront of audio performance for many years until we were able to offer a significant step forward.

The Antileon Signature, like its predecessor, the original Antileon, was born a classic, establishing itself immediately in High End circles as one of the most acclaimed amplifiers of all time. Loyal devotees around the world praise its singular ability to maintain a firm grip on even the most demanding loudspeakers and reveal the innermost soul of any musical performance.

Now, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, available in stereo and single-channel configurations, takes the next evolutionary step.

A long time coming and well worth the wait.

### Current Events

All amplifiers are not created equal, even if their published specifications might suggest otherwise. The extreme high current capability of the Gryphon Antileon EVO, for instance, is something that must be experienced first-hand, not merely gleaned from a specifications sheet. The wattage (W) that an amplifier is capable of generating is in fact the mathematical product of two factors, Voltage (V) multiplied by Current measured in Amperes (A).

On paper, a low-current, high-voltage amp would appear to produce the same number of Watts as a low-voltage, high current amp, but only if one does not take into account the crucial fact that the ability to generate high instantaneous current is far more critical and relevant to actual audible performance.

For this reason, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, like all Gryphon amplifiers before it, is a true high current design. With exceptional peak-to-peak current capability, the Gryphon Antileon EVO ensures compatibility with even the most viciously reactive loudspeaker loads, permitting the loudspeaker of your choice to perform at its very best.

### Unapologetically Uncompromising

Recent decades have seen concerted efforts by audio manufacturers to encourage a shift away from high-power Class A amplification in favour of newer, more "efficient" topologies with claims that they can deliver the same level of performance in a lighter, more compact and decorator-friendly form factor.

The truth behind these specious allegations and the true motivation behind the promotion of lightweight amplification are very straightforward. It is an elementary exercise in cost cutting.

As material costs (copper and steel in particular) skyrocket, designers under the "guidance" of corporate accountants have been skimping on the costly massive power transformers and banks of high-current capacitors that generate the reservoir of electrical power that ultimately becomes the audio signal that drives your loudspeakers.

But it is the size and quality of these components that directly determine the amplifier's performance potential. Heavily regulated, stiff power-supply voltages and high current capability are crucial to achieving the control and speed that translate into musical clarity and resolution.

Despite bold claims, the audio industry has not found a better way to do it, just cheaper ways to almost do it.

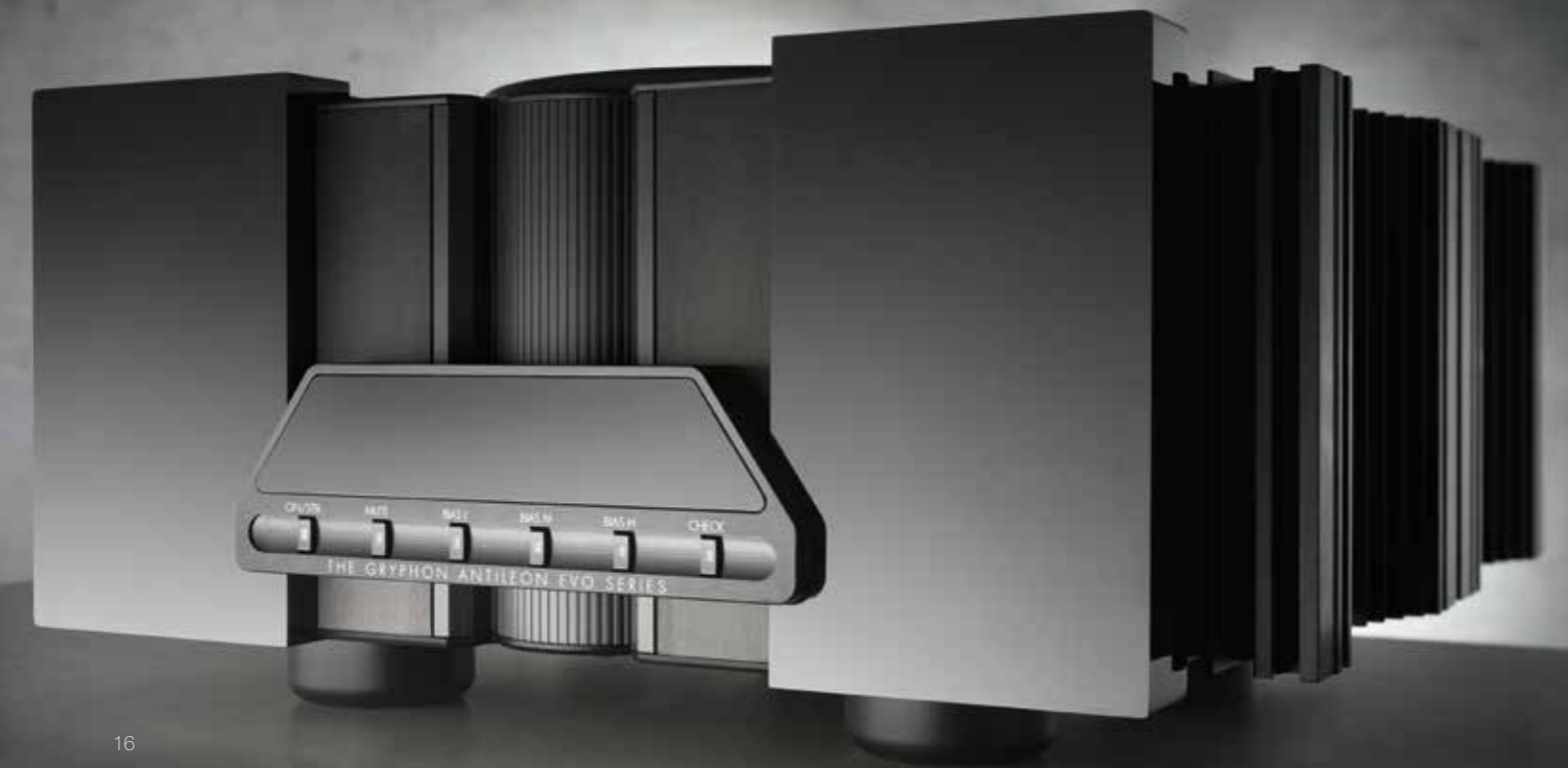
Unlike so many current models crippled by downsized power supplies and capacitor banks as designers struggle to mitigate the impact of ever-rising raw material costs, the Gryphon Antileon EVO employs pure Class A bias with full power instantaneously available at all times, regardless of the actual load.

TRUE, PURE CLASS A requires heavy transformers, high electrical consumption, lots of heat, substantial heatsinks, and very, very expensive parts and manufacturing.

There is no shortcut to the sheer magic of pure Class A.

### Infinite Separation

While monoblock power amplifiers are by no means rare in the uppermost echelons of High End audio, few - if any - are executed as conscientiously and uncompromisingly as the single-channel Gryphon Antileon ▶



► EVO Monoblock. More than 90% of all other mono amplifiers have been "designed" easily and speedily, simply by bridging the two channels of an existing stereo model.

Unfortunately, while bridging increases nominal output power, other critical parameters take a major hit.

Because the Gryphon EVO monoblock employs parallel-coupling instead of series coupling (bridging), distortion is cut in half, damping factor is doubled and output impedance is cut in half, doubling current capability for absolute control of loudspeaker loads as low as 1 Ohm.

Two physically independent audio channels on separate chassis effectively eliminates any interaction or interference between the two channels for infinite separation and the rock-solid holographic imaging that has become a Gryphon hallmark.

With completely separate power supplies isolated on independent chassis, even the most extreme instantaneous current draw in one channel will have no impact whatsoever on the other channel. The ready availability of high current on demand lends an effortless smoothness and consistency to the musical performance of the Gryphon Antileon EVO monoblock, even at realistic concert hall levels.

As a single-channel design, the Gryphon Antileon EVO monoblock doubles the transformer capacity and the number of transistors and power capacitors operating in each channel, enhancing its suitability for use with typical High End loudspeakers with low sensitivity, low impedance and large phase angles.

### Class A Bias

Gryphon Antileon EVO employs true Class A bias for instantaneous availability of full current at all times.

Gryphon rejects any biasing scheme which attempts to simulate Class A bias by switching to a higher bias level when a more dynamic signal is detected. This type of sensor can only respond after the fact, because it is not possible to adjust bias rapidly enough to accurately "track" dynamic changes in real time in music which is rich in impulses.

For situations in which the full power of the Antileon EVO will not be required (a small room, undemanding music, background listening, efficient loudspeakers, etc.) the owner has the option of selecting full or reduced Class A bias via front panel controls.

For a more flexible approach, when paired with a Gryphon preamplifier via Gryphon's proprietary Green Bias Link, power amplifier bias can be adjusted automatically in relation to the position of the preamplifier's volume

control. The user always has Class A power on tap as needed at any given time with massive power reserves ready and waiting.

### Deep Inside

Naturally, there is a lot going on beneath the lid of a fully discrete, pure-Class A, fully balanced power amplifier with twin-tiered banks of electrolytic capacitors.

The twin custom-designed 1500W toroidal power supply transformers are mechanically isolated from the chassis. A special epoxy resin is used to optimise vibration damping for the transformer. For additional isolation, the shielded, epoxy-damped housing is mounted in a suspension system for effective vibration control.

Apart from the shielded transformer housing, only non-magnetic materials are employed throughout the Gryphon Antileon EVO.

The separate driver section incorporates its own generous, independently regulated bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors powered from separate windings on the transformers. A unique mechanical design provides optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices.

Bypass capacitors are placed close to the output transistors, not, as is conventionally the case, right up against the power capacitors. This contributes to significantly enhanced high frequency performance.

Internal wiring is kept to an absolute minimum with only a single short length of Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver wire.

Two sets of rugged gold-plated binding posts of Gryphon's own design are provided for bi-wiring. The multi-way proprietary terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs, banana connectors or any combination of these.

Diagnostics and Security

The unique, non-invasive Gryphon protection system provides reliable protection with no fuses in the signal path and without compromising signal purity and simplicity. Gryphon Antileon EVO is an exceptional powerhouse amplifier that does not require the false security of sonically degrading relays in the signal path to the speaker.

Gryphon Antileon EVO incorporates full diagnostic firmware, accessible at the press of a single button to run a series of tests to monitor proper operation.

### Fit and Finish

Acknowledging that the Gryphon EVO will be a heavy, imposing addition to any living space, Flemming E. Rasmussen, Gryphon's founder and a trained

artist and industrial designer, has styled it to make a bold, sculptural statement that is as functional as it is elegant.

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The faceplate is machined out of a solid 40 mm black acrylic block that houses the LED display and the easily accessible front panel controls. While an acrylic faceplate of this thickness is more costly than conventional aluminium, Gryphon's artistic souls prefer it for its high gloss sheen and striking textural contrast to the amplifier's aluminium surfaces.

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At home in the finest interior, the battleship build quality combines with stylish, organic form to create an object of timeless beauty to match the exquisite pleasure of listening to music re-created by the Gryphon Antileon EVO power amplifier.

## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Antileon EVO Monoblock

- 175 Watts Pure Class A mono
- Parallel coupling (not bridging/series coupling) reduces distortion and output impedance by 50%, doubles damping factor and current capability
- Fully balanced input and Voltage Amplifier Stage (VAS)
- 40 High current bipolar output transistors
- 670,000 µF power capacitor bank
- Newly developed ultrafast J-FET input stage
- Custom-developed ultra-low noise regulated power supply for voltage amplifier stage (VAS).
- DC servo circuitry with Mundorf PXF Polypropylene capacitors for power supply decoupling
- Takman REY precision resistors
- Flat frequency response to beyond 350 kHz
- Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver internal wiring
- Custom-built separate toroidal transformers
- Shielded, epoxy-damped transformer casings suspended for effective vibration isolation
- Isolated power supply for display and control circuits
- No output relays
- Frequency-independent damping factor
- Proprietary Gryphon double binding posts
- Automatic Green Class A bias setting or manual Low/High bias selection
- AC power status and polarity display
- Rigid mechanical structure
- Microprocessor-controlled non-invasive "smart" protection system
- Double sealed, mil spec PCB with 105 µm copper traces
- Upgradeable microprocessor software.

# The Gryphon Wall of Fame

The Gryphon collection of awards over more than 30 years is extensive, far beyond what we can present here. Each and every one of them bears witness to the dedication and commitment of all Gryphon distributors.

Trade shows and the world audio press have been generous in their praise of the Gryphon throughout the brand's first quarter of a century with a sig-

nificant number of "Year's Best" and "Best in Show" awards.

Gryphon's collection of trophies, plaques, diplomas and certificates are on proud display on the Wall of Fame at the company's head offices.

Here is a small selection of the many honours bestowed upon the company.



## Gryphon Pandora Reference Preamplifier

*Gryphon has always marched to the beat of a different drum. Way back in 1985, when Flemming E. Rasmussen and tech guru Kim Rishøj created the groundbreaking Gryphon Headamp, it was on a strictly one-off, do-it-yourself hobby basis. Flemming just wanted to build the best possible headamp for his home system, not to get into manufacturing consumer products.*

But word spread rapidly in the audiophile community until Flemming could no longer ignore a steady stream of requests and, suddenly, Gryphon Audio Designs was born.

In the intervening years, Gryphon has constantly had

one or more projects in the works as experimental platforms, exploratory testbeds intended to bring us ever closer to a credible illusion of actually being in the presence of the performers. Although never meant for public consumption, these components invariably impress the fortunate few who have the opportunity to audition them at Gryphon headquarters and their enthusiastic response and encouragement have been the impetus behind the decision to occasionally make them commercially available.

It was this unique process that ultimately led to the release of the Gryphon Reference One power amplifier and, later, the four-piece Poseidon reference monitor loudspeaker system. ▶



► Most recently, Gryphon engineers have been granted the rare luxury of developing a preamplifier/power amplifier combination unrestrained by considerations of cost, size, weight, appearance or production deadlines. Their design brief was simple: make it the best that it can possibly be.

To celebrate Gryphon's first 25 years, Rasmussen decided to make a commercial version of these laboratory units available in a strictly limited edition, now officially dubbed the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier and Gryphon Pandora preamplifier.

### Pandora's Two Boxes

In Greek mythology, Pandora was created at Zeus' command as the first woman on earth. Her name means "the all-gifted", because the gods endowed her with numerous precious talents. From Aphrodite, she received beauty, divine grace, charm and harmony; from Apollo, the gift of music; from Hermes, the power of subtle persuasion; from Athena, soul and from the Graces, love, tenderness, beauty, kindness, pleasure, creativity, artistry, and sensuality.

We have captured these virtues in the dual-chassis Gryphon Pandora preamplifier with total isolation of audio circuitry and power supplies on separate chassis to protect the audio signal from any interference.

The dual mono aspect of the design is taken to the practical extreme with separate detachable power cords.

Thanks to creative engineering and unbridled freedom in its design and execution, Gryphon Pandora is empowered to reveal more of the recorded source than any previous preamplifier. Only the finest components, selected for both technical and audio parameters, have been implemented, including Japanese Takman resistors and Charcroft Z-Foil resistors. Signal transmission between preamp and power amp takes place in fully balanced mode for low signal loss and minimal distortion.

Pandora also marks the introduction of a newly developed single-ended Class A input buffer stage consisting of only two transistors and a single resistor to maintain the transparency, speed and openness of the audio signal.

### In Control

Conceptually, a preamplifier serves two primary functions, traffic control and volume control. Gryphon Pandora dispenses with conventional tone controls, balance knobs, mono switches and other superfluous circuitry to reduce interchannel and

signal path coloration to an absolute minimum.

When in pristine condition, contacts in the signal path have little impact on sound quality, but this condition rarely lasts for long. In order to prevent signal loss through oxidation, all relays incorporate gold-plated contact surfaces. Source selector relays (three balanced inputs, two single-ended, one tape loop) are also hermetically sealed to prevent the accretion of grime on contact surfaces. Relays ensure the shortest possible signal path and are subject to negligible wear.

The Gryphon Pandora volume control is a microprocessor-controlled 85-step attenuator for extreme precision in setting the desired listening level. Select resistors and relays ensure long life and perfect matching at all levels. The front panel volume control is a heavy wheel with double ball-bearings for smooth running.

### Control Menu

The outward simplicity of the Gryphon Pandora conceals a variety of custom adjustments that are readily accessible without cluttering the front panel. For an exceptional level of convenience and user-friendliness with no negative impact on audio performance, Gryphon Pandora is equipped with a microprocessor-controlled menu of practical features: input naming, max level setting, start level setting, left/right channel balance (6 dB in 1 dB increments), input level matching, fixed-level AV throughput, display brightness (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off), Green Bias setup and default restore.

### Green Bias

When connected via Gryphon's proprietary Green Bias Link to a Gryphon power amplifier with Green Bias function, Gryphon Pandore can control available Class A output, reducing power consumption and running the amp slightly cooler for less critical use. This feature adjusts the amplifier bias in relation to the preamplifier volume control for exactly the right amount of Class A power on demand as needed with massive instantaneous power reserves ready and waiting.

### Power Supply

With twin 90,000 microFarad capacitor banks, the Gryphon Pandora power supply is comparable to what is found in many integrated amps or power amplifiers. The overkill power supply ensures rock-solid

### Pandora preamp

### and Mephisto power amp

### Stereo Prestige & Image France

*"it takes mere seconds to appreciate how this system comports itself with great ease and effortlessness. Pandora and Mephisto push back the boundaries still further, as they take their place among the top amplification systems in the world."*

*"In every musical parameter, these components must be regarded as the absolute, inescapable reference."*



control, headroom and signal purity under any imaginable conditions. In addition, the Pandora power supply can power external components such as the Gryphon Legato Legacy phono stage, both as a stand-alone unit or as modules installed in the Pandora.

### Beyond Compromise

For a product that was never intended to see the light of day, extraordinary attention to detail and innovation have been lavished on the Gryphon Pandora.

Precisely because it was conceived unencumbered by thoughts of price, spousal approval and other niceties that limit the imagination, Pandora is uniquely revealing of the performance of source components, loudspeakers and interconnects.

Gryphon Pandora offers a tonally natural musical presence, a rich, varied palette of colours grounded with appropriate weight and body and set in the original acoustic space with pinpoint dimensional accuracy.

This is the level of performance we demand in our listening rooms and now we are pleased to share it with the world.

# Gryphon Zena

## Preamplifier



*The audiobeat.com website notes simply that “Any Gryphon preamp or amp is a final destination point for audiophiles, both in terms of performance and price.”*

*Monoandstereo.com injects the following observation based on decades of experience: “It’s hard to keep my enthusiasm bottled, when something arrives for a review directly from Gryphon Audio and Flemming Rasmussen.”*

Now, in its long-awaited debut, the Gryphon Zena true dual mono preamplifier harvests the fruit of significant advances made in the evolution of the state of the art Gryphon Mirage.

The Zena preamp is based on an exclusive, fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A topology with zero global negative feedback and extended 1 MHz frequency bandwidth, all contributing to high slew rates, extreme transient fidelity and zero treble phase shift for proper focus with fine ambient micro-detail.

The Gryphon Zena replaces the Athena ball-bearing volume wheel with touch-sensitive up/down buttons to create a volume attenuator consisting of

43 individual steps in 2 dB increments, with no more than two resistors in the volume control signal path at any given time.

Among the numerous component upgrades of the Zena is an ultra-precise array of SMD metal-foil resistors and hermetically sealed, gold-plated, ultra-low capacitance Pickering reed relays.

Equally crucial, the Zena volume attenuator is fully balanced, with no conversion of the signal from the XLR inputs to single-ended prior to attenuation, as was the case with the Athena. This simplification of the Zena signal path represents a major step forward in sound quality.

The Zena employs shunt regulators in the voltage supplies to the active circuits of the volume attenuator, in order to ensure a DC supply with ultra-low output impedance across a wide frequency band and optimal noise suppression.

To allow use in a surround system without compromising the stereo performance of the Gryphon Zena, the preamp now includes an expanded AV throughput function, so that either Input 2 (XLR) or input 3 (phono) can be configured as a 0 dB AV throughput for ideal integration with the owner’s multi-channel installation.

The Zena employs Wima polypropylene capacitors across the electrolytic capacitors in series regulated power supplies, as well as in parallel across Aluminium Organic Polymer capacitors in the shunt-regulated power supplies of the volume attenuator circuit. Schottky barrier diodes with low Von voltage are used in the analogue power supplies.

With no internal wiring, the only cabled exceptions are a short ground lead, display ribbons and AC power wiring mounted in a shielded channel from the rear IEC socket to the power switch to minimise 50/60 Hz interference.

Like the top of the range Gryphon Pandora preamplifier, the Zena eliminates tone controls, balance knobs, polarity inversion, headphone connections, mono switches and other superfluous circuitry to reduce interchannel and signal path coloration to an absolute minimum for the ultimate in beat fidelity, known to the British audiophile as PRaT, more politely referred to as Pace, Rhythm and Timing.

Flawlessly executed minimalist Scandinavian industrial design in various shades of black combines with a stylish user interface and all the functionality any serious 21st century music lover will ever desire.

The Zena also offers 12V DC link input and output for enhanced system control of system power on and off.

For ideal suppression of vibration and resonance, the substantial Zena chassis rests on proprietary cylindrical feet in front and two pointed rear cones.

From the minimalist fascia, setup is controlled through a menu, displayed across a dimmable graphical green/blue vacuum fluorescent touch-sensitive panel with easy, responsive operation.

The range of microprocessor controlled, fully adjustable menu items include input naming with up to 8 characters, maximum level, start level, input level trim up to 8dB, AV throughput, display brightness (100%, 75%,

50%, 25%, Off), default restoration and Gryphon Green Bias.

### Green Bias

When connected via Gryphon’s proprietary Green Bias Link to a Gryphon power amplifier with Green Bias function, the Gryphon Zena preamp can control available Class A output, reducing power consumption and running the amp slightly cooler for periods of less critical listening. This feature adjusts the amplifier bias in relation to the preamplifier volume control setting for exactly the right amount of Class A power on demand as needed with massive instantaneous power reserves ready and waiting.

No slave to convention, the Gryphon Zena remote control wand is a design exercise in simple elegance, a long aluminium box with square cross section in black satin. A built-in stand at one end lifts and tilts the remote to face the user. At the other end is the Gryphon logo in white. The quirky, but practical, device with responsive aluminium buttons is a pleasure to use.

The Gryphon Zena is the first Gryphon preamplifier to offer the option of installing either a phonostage or DAC module at time of original purchase or at a later date. If your system consists of both analogue and digital sources, the DAC module can be installed and the Gryphon Sonett phonostage can be purchased as a stand-alone addition.

### Phonostage Module

The optional PS2-S Phonostage module for installation in the Gryphon Zena or Diablo integrated amplifier series is our ambitious endeavour to bring a major portion of the performance of the state of the art Gryphon Legato Legacy Phonostage to a more affordable price point. Haute Fidelité (France) praised the phonostage module for “some of the most well-defined vinyl playback that we have ever experienced in our listening room.” ▶



## DAC Module

The Gryphon DAC module available for optional installation in the Zena preamplifier is based on the acclaimed Gryphon Kalliope D/A converter with the well-regarded ESS Sabre ES9018 chipset. Critics around the world praise the breakthrough design and performance of the Kalliope:

The module includes asynchronous USB, AES/EBU, optical, and dual S/PDIF coaxial connections.

The USB input accepts signals of resolutions up

to 32-bit/384kHz PCM and DSD512; the remaining inputs are limited to 24/192 PCM signals. Gryphon's DAC module permits the activation of selectable PCM and DSD filters via the preamplifier menu system. Slow roll-off (short group delay) and sharp roll-off (long group delay) digital filters are

***“Amazing realism and utterly analogue fluidity.***

***A total success!”***

**Haute Fidelité, France**

***“It is hard for me to imagine a more musically accurate DAC in the marketplace today.”***

**Enjoythemusic.com, USA**

available on the PCM side, while for DSD a first-order, analogue filter can be bypassed or set at 50, 60, or 70 kHz (50 kHz is the default).

## The Gryphon Zena Listening Experience

The Gryphon Zena Preamplifier fuses incisiveness, neutrality and utter transparency enabling it to reveal any change in ancillary equipment anywhere in the signal path. Instrumental and vocal placement in all three dimensions is stunning, with distinct illumination of even the most distant corners of the soundstage.

Polished harmonic brilliance and weight, sharp image focus, powerful ambient recovery and realistic transient attack are among the many exceptional benefits of the next level design efforts that Gryphon's engineers have applied in the creation of the Gryphon Zena preamplifier.



## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Pandora

- True Dual Mono configuration
- Fully discrete pure Class A with ultra-short signal path
- 2 x 90,000 microFarad capacity banks
- Ultra-wideband 3 MHz frequency response
- Zero negative feedback
- DC-coupling with servo-control
- Isolated power supply for non-audio circuits
- Extensive mechanical decoupling
- Extensive local voltage regulation
- Big-wheel, ball-bearing, microprocessor-controlled 85-step relay volume attenuator featuring Charcroft Z-Foil Audio ultra precision resistors and ultra low capacitance relays for best sonic performance
- New, high-speed, discrete single-ended Class A input buffer developed for best possible sonic performance
- Select premium-grade components, including Takman Audio resistors
- Minimal internal wiring
- Military spec. double-sided up to 70µm copper printed circuit boards
- Two separate custom-made C-core transformers, one for each channel
- Gold-plated input-isolating relays
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated XLR sockets for three balanced sources and two outputs
- Gold-plated Gryphon phono sockets with Teflon insulation for two inputs and one Tape output
- Optional integrated, Gryphon Phono Stage or Legato Legacy balanced RIAA module
- Fixed-level AV throughput for uncompromising integration with surround systems
- Microprocessor-controlled menu functions
- Adjustable channel balance, source level matching, start-up and maximum level
- Green Bias control for Gryphon power amplifiers
- Graphical Vacuum Fluorescent Display
- Backlit touch-sensitive front panel controls
- Adjustable display illumination (High, Medium, Low, Off)
- Non-magnetic, non-resonant aluminium cabinets
- 12 V DC link input and output

- Flash memory upgrades via PC or key-fob
- Infrared remote control
- Standby power consumption <1W
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark

### Gryphon Zena

- Zero negative feedback
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A circuit topology
- Microprocessor-controlled, 43-step, fully balanced relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance based on a minimalist contingent of ultra-precision resistors
- New, high-speed, discrete single-ended Class A input buffer for best possible sonic performance
- Optional PCM/DSD DAC module with one USB, 2 x SPDIF, 1 AES and 1 optical input. PCM up to Fs = 384kHz, DSD up to DSD512
- Optional MM/MC phono stage module
- Local shunt regulators for optimal noise suppression
- Input level matching to prevent abrupt level changes
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- Gold-plated Neutrik XLR sockets for 2 balanced inputs and 1 output
- Gold-plated phono sockets with Teflon insulation for 3 inputs and 2 outputs
- Fixed-level AV throughput, balanced or unbalanced, for uncompromising integration with surround preamplifier.
- Large Vacuum Fluorescent Display for easy legibility
- Adjustable display lighting
- Backlit touch-sensitive front panel controls
- 12V DC link input and output
- Green Bias control – compatible with any Gryphon power amplifier
- Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark
- +18 dB gain, max.
- Output Impedance: 15 Ohm (XLR), 22,5 Ohm (phono)
- Frequency Bandwidth: 0.1 Hz – 1 MHz (-3 dB)
- Power Supply Capacity: 2 x 26.000 microFarad
- Input Impedance, balanced (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 50 kOhm
- Input Impedance, single-ended (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 25 kOhm

# Gryphon Sonett

## Phono Stage

### The Gryphon Vinyl Commitment



*Gryphon Audio Designs of Denmark have maintained a consistent commitment to vinyl reproduction from the creation of the company in 1985, right up to the launch of the Gryphon Sonett Phono stage.*

Ultimate LP playback was the inspiration for our very first product, the now legendary Gryphon Head Amp. To this day, the LP remains the finest high fidelity medium ever offered for home use with a catalogue of titles that never to be rivalled by the compact disc.

In a concerted effort to bring the performance of the reference level Gryphon Legato Legacy phono stage to more affordable price points, Gryphon initially offered the Sonett in a modular form for optional installation in the Gryphon Diablo 300 and Diablo 120 integrated amplifiers. Haute Fidelité (France) praised the module for "some of the most well-defined vinyl playback that we have ever experienced in our listening room."

However, vinyl connoisseurs with other system configurations generated immediate demand for a stand-alone version with independent dual mono power supply that would make the fruits of Gryphon's explorations into the latest circuit topologies, low-noise component breakthroughs and power supply innovations accessible to all.

The Sonett MM/MC Phono stage is also the perfect companion for the Gryphon integrated



amplifiers if an outboard vinyl solution is desired. The Gryphon Sonett is a fully discrete, DC coupled design employing exclusively polypropylene capacitors for precision RIAA correction. Rear panel switches offer multiple options for selection of the desired MC load (10, 20, 80.6, 100, 200 or 402  $\Omega$ ). Multiple load options can be combined in parallel for even more options. For instance, 80.6  $\Omega$  can be activated together with 100  $\Omega$  to achieve a load of 45  $\Omega$ .

Gryphon Sonett employs only the finest components, including Wima polypropylene capacitors and polymer coupling capacitors, Schottky barrier diodes with low Von voltage. Separate Talema toroidal power transformers for each channel ensure minimal magnetic radiation. Low-noise linear series regulators deliver a total of 22,400 $\mu$ F per channel.

The transformers are mounted behind the front panel as far away as possible from the phono stage circuit to effectively isolate it from transformer radiation. The internal power wiring from the rear IEC socket to the power switch is mounted in a shielded channel to minimize risk of 50/60 Hz interference.

The Gryphon Sonett Phono stage will provide a significant upgrade for any system assembled to extract the very best from black vinyl grooves to enlighten the lives of dedicated music lovers for years to come.

**Gryphon Sonett:**  
**Le "petit" préampli phono MM/MC du**  
**monstre danois de l'audio High End...**  
**Publié par Pierre Stemmelin**  
**le 10 février 2018.**  
**Publié dans Actus - news audiophiles**  
**ON-topaudio**



TO AVOID ELECTRICAL SHOCK, REMOVE AC CORD BEFORE OPENING.  
SWITCHING BETWEEN MC AND MM MODE IS DONE INTERNALLY.

MM MODE LOAD:	ALL OFF	47K ohm/200pf	
MC MODE LOAD:	No. 4+5	66,7 ohm	
No. 1	10,0 ohm	No. 4	100,0 ohm
No. 2+3	16,0 ohm	No. 5+6	133,6 ohm
No. 2	20,0 ohm	No. 5	200,0 ohm
No. 3+4	44,6 ohm	No. 6	402,0 ohm

SONETT  
DUAL MONO  
PHONOSTAGE

THE  
GRYPHON

## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Sonett

- Zero negative feedback
- True Dual Mono Class A topology
- Moving Coil and Moving Magnet cartridge compatible
- MC load impedance can be set externally with left/right rear panel switches
- Internal switching between MC and MM
- Polypropylene capacitors used in RIAA correction stages
- Discreet components in analogue stages
- DC-coupled topology from input to output
- Low noise +/- 21VDC regulated voltage supplies for excellent analogue THD and noise suppression
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring

- Two-layer printed circuit board with 70 µm copper traces on both sides
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated phono input and output sockets with Teflon insulation
- Designed and built in Denmark
- Gain
  - MC: 64 dB
  - MM: 42 dB
- Impedance
  - MC: 10, 20, 80.6, 100, 200, 402 Ω or parallel combinations
  - MM: 47 kΩ/200pF
- Signal/Noise Ratio
  - MC (Input 2.5 mV, 1 kHz): >72 dB
  - MM (Input 250 mV, 1 kHz): >84 dB

Specifications are subject to change without notice.



## Gryphon Legato Legacy XLR

### Dual mono, fully balanced Phonostage

*Who would have thought just five or ten years ago that the venerable LP might actually outlive the compact disc? For many audiophiles, despite the massive digital hype of the past three decades, the LP remains by a significant margin the finest high fidelity medium ever offered for home use. Its comprehensive catalogue of titles will never be rivaled by the compact disc, which already appears to be on its way to a carefully orchestrated obsolescence.*

In spite of the theoretically perfect measurements of even the most basic digital audio format, we at Gryphon simply hear more music when listening to the LP. This is a good thing, considering that the number of LP's released during the course of the last half a century will never be matched by the CD in its brief lifespan.

**theaudiobeat.com USA**

*“full, substantial images, naturalness and the music’s own sense of momentum, the mids transitioning upward into a smooth yet airy treble and downward into a bouncy midbass and those powerful lows.”*

In 1994, Gryphon stunned the audiophile community with the Gryphon Orestes phonostage, the world's first fully balanced MC preamp. Perhaps equally surprised by the fact that we chose to do it all as by how well it was done, the audio press had only the highest praise and admiration for the Orestes, “Utterly convincing. With a delightful firmness and wonderful resolution, it enhanced the performance of one MC cartridge after another. It offers earth-shaking bass and beguiling, airy highs.” (Audio, Germany).

At the turn of the millennium, Gryphon re-invented LP playback once again with the Legato phonostage. The word “legato” is from the Italian for “bound together.” In classical music, it is a composer’s instruction to play in a smooth, flowing manner without detached notes.

Briefly discontinued, the Gryphon Legato phonostage has been revived by popular demand ▶



► in the Legato Legacy version to harvest the fruits of our explorations into the latest circuit topologies, low-noise component breakthroughs and power supply innovations in the service of the vast body of music that will continue to enlighten the lives of dedicated music lovers for years to come.

Fully balanced from input to output, with no op-amps or IC's, the Gryphon Legato Legacy is available in modular or stand-alone versions. The two versions are identical with regard to circuitry and sound quality.

When installed in the Gryphon Pandora preamplifier, the modular Legato Legacy is powered by the preamp power supply. Legato Legacy modules can be factory-fitted or added at a later date.

The stand-alone Legato Legacy XLR is a stylish slim line cabinet that can be driven by its own power supply (identical to the power supply developed for the massively over-the-top Pandora preamp) or by your Gryphon Pandora or Sonata-Allegro power supply.

In both configurations, the sensitive low-level signal is fully shielded in a dual mono, RF-free environment with no internal wiring, fully sealed PCB's specified to the highest standards, zero negative feedback and DC coupling.

Designed to fully exploit the inherently balanced nature of the phono cartridge, the Legato Legacy phonostage have balanced inputsockets only. The stand alone versions offers goldplated Neutrik XLR sockets. The module version uses the finest balanced LEMO connectors.

Impedance loading is selected internally with high quality goldplated jumpers. The Legato Legacy is also equipped with sockets for custom load resistors.

Critical components are sourced from suppliers with extensive experience in building to the tight tolerances specified for military or medical equipment. Final assembly and testing are conducted in-house.

Component quality, mechanical construction and cosmetic design fulfill the high expectations that come with the Gryphon name. A classic example of Flemming E. Rasmussen styling, Legato Legacy exudes pride of ownership and stands as an ideal partner for the new Pandora reference preamplifier both in design and performance.

Dedicated to the music lover who continues to seek out the countless musical treasures available on LP, the Gryphon Legato Legacy phonostage is the key to all the power, purity and subtlety of expression captured for posterity on black vinyl.

## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Legato Legacy xLR

- Selectable MC input impedance from 10 Ohm to 47 kOhm
- Custom impedance load option
- Selectable gain
- MM or MC input
- Extremely low noise
- Dual mono configuration
- Fully balanced circuit, a Gryphon phonostage innovation as early as 1994
- Fully discrete circuit
- Select premium-grade components
- Gold plated Neutrik XLR input sockets
- Swiss LEMO connectors on module version
- Zero negative feedback
- Short signal path
- Available as stand-alone unit or as integrated modules in Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and some discontinued Gryphon preamplifiers
- Dual mono external power supplies
- Custom-made C-core transformers
- DC coupling
- AC mains filtering
- Fully sealed double-sided mil spec PC boards
- 75 µm copper traces
- Made in Denmark

**theaudiobeat.com USA, Nov. 2014**

*"A solid-state phono stage that pushes "analog's performance and technological boundaries."*

**theaudiobeat.com USA, Aug. 2013**

*"The cleanliness of the layout along with the dual-mono construction instill great confidence that Gryphon Audio has addressed all sources of the noise that's so detrimental to analog playback, especially with low-output moving-coil cartridges."*



# Welcome To the House of Gryphon



# Gryphon Diablo 300

## Integrated Amplifier



Nearly 10 years ago, the Gryphon Diablo brought newfound credibility and respectability to the humble integrated amplifier. Previously the object of widespread scorn from audiophiles, the full potential of the integrated amplifier was finally realised in the Gryphon Diablo, so far ahead of its time that it - with typical Gryphon longevity - remained the absolute reference in its class for a full decade.

Gryphon Diablo is quite possibly the most popular High End integrated amplifier of all time. Despite sales of thousands of units, its virtual absence from the second-hand market is a reliable indicator of the extreme loyalty of Diablo owners.

Now, the Gryphon Diablo makes way for the Gryphon Diablo 300, a revitalised iteration of the technologies and components that made it the world's most award-winning High End integrated amplifier.

### Taking It Further

Fortunately, in designing the Diablo 300, the Gryphon crew had the luxury and privilege of being able to draw heavily on concepts, components and technological breakthroughs that emerged during the evolution of the much lauded Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and Mephisto power amplifier.

The ultra-transparent, fully balanced volume attenuator topology fully exploits the two balanced inputs. Unlike the vast majority of solid state volume controls that typically introduce dozens of resistors in the signal path, the Diablo 300 employs no more than two for any given level setting.

The extreme wideband frequency response of the Diablo 300 extends from 0.5 Hz to 350 kHz and its prodigious 300 Watt (8 Ohms) power out-

put capability represents a full 25% increase over the original Diablo. The extreme high current capability of the Diablo 300 allows it to double its output to 600 Watts in a 4 Ohm load and deliver a massive 950 Watts into 2 Ohms.

As these numbers confirm, the Gryphon Diablo 300 will remain rock solid when confronted with even the most viciously reactive loudspeaker loads.

Diablo 300 maintains a power reservoir capacity of 68,000 microFarad and employs local active shunt regulators for superior noise suppression compared to the Zener diode regulated low-voltage supplies of the original Diablo.

Because it operates without negative feedback, the Gryphon Diablo 300 avoids both the intrinsic time-delay caused by sending the output signal

to the input for a comparator loop and the resulting intermodulation distortion between time-offset signals.

Further highlights include massive, overkill power supplies, high Class A/B bias, state of the art audiophile components throughout, mounted on military specification dual- and four-layer printed circuit boards with virtually no point-to-point wiring.

Diablo 300 utilises new, low-capacitance pre-driver transistors and increased current in the voltage amplification stage for extended bandwidth and increased slew rate. The wire-wound emitter diodes in the original Diablo output stage have been upgraded to non-inductive types.

The power supplies for various amplification stages employ only polypropylene coupling capacitors in parallel with high-grade electrolytic capacitors.

To dissipate heat generated by the increased power of the Diablo 300, the unit is fitted

**In updating the Diablo, the Gryphon engineering team faced a considerable challenge. In addition to Product of the Year awards including Lyd & Bilde (Norway), 6 Moons.com (USA) and Haute Fidelité (France), many of the most critical professional listeners have been inspired to effusive praise, as in this evocative turn of phrase from Hi Fi Choice (UK):**

**"Sounds like God's own stereo."**

**"Ultimately, Gryphon's Diablo is a contradiction in terms, because the sound it makes is truly Angelic."**

**Australian Hi Fi**

**"the phenomenal level of resolution, detail retrieval, ambience recreation and dynamics this amplifier is capable of."**

**6moons.com**

with twice as much heatsink area as its predecessor. The highly efficient recessed heatsink array is cleverly integrated into the smooth exterior for a stylish statement that takes the Diablo 300 architecture well beyond the realm of undistinguished laboratory styling common to so many High End audio components.

### Vinyl and Digital Options

At the time of original purchase or as the need arises at a later date, Gryphon Diablo 300 can be fitted with a specially designed Gryphon DAC PCM/DSD module based on the innovative, award-winning Gryphon Kalliope digital-to-analogue converter. The module adds five digital inputs (USB, balanced AES 115 Ω, optical and dual S/PDIF 75 Ω). USB can process PCM up to 32-bit/384 kHz as well as DSD (Windows OS up to DSD512,



Mac OS up to DSD128, Linux OS up to DSD128 DoP). The remaining digital connections can handle PCM up to 24-bit/192 kHz.

This future-proof digital module is ready for any current or foreseeable high resolution digital format.

And, in the finest Gryphon tradition, the Diablo 300 offers the option of an exceptional MM/MC phono stage for the dedicated enthusiasts who continue to enjoy the musical treasures etched in the grooves of the long-playing, black vinyl disc.

### Style and Ease of Use

Despite its substantial size and heft, the satin black, brushed aluminium chassis and gleaming black acrylic faceplate of the Gryphon Diablo 300 exude luxurious elegance that will enhance any interior. Form and function ▶



## Features and Specifications

### Gryphon Diablo 300

- 2 x 300W (8Ω), 2 x 600W (4Ω), 2 x 950W (2Ω)
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Zero negative feedback
- Microprocessor-controlled 43-step fully balanced relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance based on a minimalist contingent of ultra-precision resistors
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- Military spec. dual-layer and four-layer printed circuit boards with up to 105 micron copper traces
- Dual Mono Holmgren toroidal transformer with vacuum treated core and windings to virtually eliminate mechanical noise
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- New, high-speed, discrete single-ended Class A input buffer for best possible sonic performance
- Gold-plated Neutrik XLR sockets for two balanced sources
- Gold-plated phono sockets with Teflon insulation for 3 inputs and 2 outputs
- Fixed-level AV throughput for uncompromising integration with surround preamplifier
- Input level matching to prevent abrupt level changes

- Large Vacuum Fluorescent Display for easy legibility
- Adjustable display lighting (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off)
- Backlit touch-sensitive front panel controls
- Optional MM/MC phono stage module
- Optional PCM/DSD DAC module with one USB, 2 x SPDIF, 1 AES and 1 optical input
- 12V DC link input and output
- Flash memory upgrades via key fob
- Local shunt regulators for optimal noise suppression
- Non-invasive protection system
- Infrared remote control
- Input for external infrared receiver
- Standard power consumption: less than 0.5 W, conforming to latest EU standards
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark
- Power Output: 2 x 300W (8Ω), 2 x 600W (4Ω), 2 x 950W (2Ω)
- Output Impedance: 0.019 Ω
- Frequency Bandwidth (-3 dB): 0.1 Hz – 350 kHz
- Power Supply Capacity: 2 x 68.000 microFarad
- Gain: +38 dB
- SUB output gain: +12 dB
- Input Impedance, balanced (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 40 kΩ
- Input Impedance, single-ended (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 20 kΩ

► come together as the non-magnetic, non-resonant chassis and isolated power supplies for pre and power stages and control and display functions shield against interference.

The Gryphon Diablo 300 is controlled via an intuitively simple touch-sensitive front panel user interface and a software-based menu display that allow the owner to customise key functions. Future software updates can be installed via flash memory as they are developed.

A large alphanumeric Vacuum Fluorescent Display prominently exhibits the name of the active input and the current volume setting. Personalised input source names up to eight characters long can be assigned in the display.

All functions are accessible from the front panel or the striking remote wand. So there are no mechanical parts to wear out or become noisy.

In the words of HiFi+ (UK), "The remote is one of the very best I have tried, a long, slim metal design that enables you to get where you want to be quickly and completely intuitively. It is an object lesson in uncluttered clarity and it makes the amplifier a joy to control."

#### Exclusive Features

Diablo 300 incorporates a full-range subwoofer output and, for use in a surround setup without compromising the stereo performance of the Diablo 300, an AV throughput allows the Diablo 300 to drive the two main channels without the need to rewire or recalibrate the system when switching between stereo and surround operation.

Diablo 300 can be configured for automatic level matching of inputs to protect the owner's ears and equipment when switching between sources with varying output levels. The volume control is linked to the Mute control to prevent increasing volume while the muting circuit is ac-



*"Spectacular design and equally spectacular sound quality. An ultra-cool potent amplifier for demanding loudspeakers and demanding listeners."*  
**Lyd & Bilde (Norway)**

The original Diablo also found its way into the pages of the mainstream press, where the **Sydney Morning Herald** (Australia) praised its "exceptional sound quality, even when driving speakers other amplifiers have found difficult to handle."

tive. This eliminates the risk of loudspeaker damage through accidental overpowering.

For further protection, a fixed start level and fixed maximum level can be selected in the Diablo 300 setup menu.

An intelligent, non-invasive protection system constantly monitors operational status and, in the unlikely event of any problem, shuts down quickly and safely to protect your investment.

Custom-built Gryphon speaker terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs or banana plugs for a tight, reliable connection and 12V DC link inputs and outputs are provided for integration with a home automation system.

#### The Diablo 300 Mission

Vast reserves of pure, stable power ensure speed, precision, authority, effortless rendering of dynamic contrasts and a spellbindingly natural experience of the emotional ebb and flow of any style of music.

Like few audio components, Gryphon Diablo 300 keeps musical strands and layers distinct, yet cohesive, as it brings timeless art and artistry to your home.





## Diablo 300 on Review

"Gryphon's Diablo 300 super integrated collected awards across the audiophile press like bees collect honey; including from us"  
6moons.com

"Odds are this is not your first review of the Gryphon Audio Diablo 300, and after reading a few by other respected reviewers we all seem to agree this incredible integrated amplifier is a true prized passionate possession you need to have within your home."  
enjoythemusic.com

"With the Diablo 300 and its optional modules, the danish manufacturer returns to the forefront of the category with topflight technology and remarkable musicality."  
Haute Fidelity , France

"Best sound from an integrated amplifier at a show."  
Hi Fi Cube, Portugal

"one word - Reference"  
Marcin Olszewski, Sound Rebels, Polan

"Best at Show"  
Moscow high end show 2015

"Gryphon Diablo 300 is unequivocally and by a wide margin, the best integrated amplifier ever to grace our audio testing and music listening enviroment."  
Audio Esoterica, Australia

"...an excellent combination of power and musicality in a bold brutal design offering all features. The musicality and power does not conflict, they supplement each other and this dualism makes it one of the greatest amplifiers that we have ever encountered..."  
Pro High End, Russia

"A step closer to Nirvana"  
Best Hi Fi, Spain

"The Diablo 300 is a mad, inimitable masterpiece."  
Hans Wetzel, Soundstage, USA

"Taking the lead for another 10 Years"  
Audio Art, Taiwan

"A sound beyond this world"  
Audio & Cinemas Casa, Portugal

"This is heavenly sound in a Diabolic packaging."  
Pro High End, Russia

"Deviishly great" ( Musical performance rating 100% )  
Michael Lange, Chief Editor, Stereo, Germany

"Integrated amplifier of the year 2015"  
Edgar Kranmer, Sound & Image, Australia

"But throw in the not insignificant fact that the Gryphon integrated can accept both an internal DAC and phono stage, and suddenly the Diablo 300 looks awfully like the nerve center of a serious (and yet seriously simple) high-end rig. Just add source and speakers."  
Roy Gregory, Audio Beat, USA



# Gryphon Diablo 120

## Integrated Amplifier



*The concept of an integrated amplifier that embodies the same ethos, musical and sonic qualities as Gryphon Audio Designs' most esoteric offerings, but at a fraction of the cost, is clearly an attractive proposition and through the single-minded dedication of the Gryphon team, the integrated amplifier has come of age as a serious, respected High End component, bringing legendary Gryphon performance and styling to a new level of affordable cost and ease of use.*

As far back as April, 2009, Gryphon introduced the original Atilla, building on the brand's impressive reputation as a pioneer in the design of unapologetic integrated amplifiers that can stand their ground against the competition's finest separate components.

French Haute Fidélité magazine called it a "Best Buy." Australian Hi-Fi magazine placed it "Easily up there with the very best" and UK magazine Hi-Fi Choice simply called the Gryphon Atilla "one of the very finest integrated amplifiers available."

In continuous production until 2016, the Atilla had a long run that is exceptional in High End audio. (Sadly, longevity is generally an overlooked and seriously undervalued attribute.)

In the interim period, Gryphon has made great advances in the critical fields of circuit topology and parts design and selection with the evolution of the state of the art, cost no object Pandora preamplifier and Mephisto power amplifier.



Now, drawing heavily on our experience with these uncompromising, reference level components, Gryphon Audio Designs proudly presents the next generation Atilla, the **Gryphon Diablo 120**.

Gryphon Diablo 120 exudes timeless elegance and beauty, informed by the unique vision of Gryphon founder Flemming E. Rasmussen.

### Integrated Greatness

The understated styling and forceful lines of the satin black, brushed aluminium chassis and gleaming black acrylic faceplate represent a superb level of fit and finish, exceptional audio finesse and a sense of unlimited power all on a single chassis.

The casework, consisting of interlocking blocks of flawless acrylic and deeply brushed and anodized aluminium, is true to the acclaimed Gryphon house style, a complex construct of contrasting angles and planes that is both reassuringly intricate and impressively solid.

Built entirely at Gryphon's Danish research and development and manufacturing facility, the Diablo 120 inherits the dual-mono circuitry, ultra-short signal path, heavily gold-plated printed circuit boards, minimal internal wiring, high-quality gold-plated and PTFE-insulated sockets and proprietary binding posts employed in our flagship mod-



els. Only the finest audiophile grade components have been selected based on strenuous, extended auditioning for sound quality, thermal stability and long-term reliability. The wire-wound emitter resistors in the original Atilla output stage have been upgraded to non-inductive types for Diablo 120.

The meticulous attention to electrical and mechanical grounding, typical of our top of the line designs, is also equally in evidence here.

The Diablo 120 integrated amplifier is essentially two independent mono devices for reduced crosstalk and minimal interchannel interaction. The only things shared electrically between channels are the famed Holmgren toroidal transformer and AC power cable.

The custom made 1,200 VA transformer adds substantial heft with discrete secondary windings for left and right channels. Each channel is fed by its own 60,000 µF capacitor bank.

The output power of the Diablo 120 is 20% greater than that of the original Atilla: 2 x 120 W (8W), 2 x 240 W (4W), 2 x 440 W (2W). Consistent increases of output power as impedance is halved is a reliable indicator of exceptional high current capability, just as the extraordinary wide audio bandwidth, 0.1Hz

to 250 kHz (-3 dB), is a sign of extreme stability.

Heatsink surface area has also been increased to match the increase in output power.

With two pairs of Sanken transistors, Diablo 120 can easily drive difficult loudspeaker loads without the faintest hint of strain.

The Diablo 120 circuit employs zero global negative feedback and a unique microprocessor controlled passive attenuator for the most transparent volume control ever conceived. Regardless of the selected level, the 46-step relay attenuator places maximum six resistors in the signal path for ultimate sonic purity.

A large, graphical vacuum fluorescent display is employed instead of a more conventional LED character display to provide space for more information and a larger, more easily legible font. The lavish display and extensive control circuits are powered independently via a separate, isolated transformer in order to eliminate any risk of noise contamination. All front panel controls are touch sensitive (capacitive actuation.) ▶

► The Diablo 120 offers one balanced and four single-ended inputs, a comprehensive menu of configuration options (four levels of display brightness, user-defined start and maximum volume settings, individual source labelling with eight-character names and a dedicated and electrically isolated AV bypass function for uncompromising integration with a multi-channel audio system.

#### Options - Digital or Analogue

At the time of original purchase or as the need arises at a later date, Gryphon Diablo 120 can be fitted with a specially designed Gryphon DAC PCM/DSD module based on the innovative, award-winning Gryphon Kalliope digital-to-analogue converter.

The module adds four digital inputs (USB, balanced AES/EBU 115  $\Omega$ , TOSLink optical and BNC S/PDIF 75  $\Omega$ ). Via USB, the Diablo 120 DAC module can process PCM up to 32-bit/384 kHz as well as DSD (on Windows OS up to DSD512, on Mac OS up to DSD128, on Linux OS up to DSD128 DoP); via BNC S/PDIF and AES/EBU inputs up to 192 kHz/32-bit PCM and via TOSLink

up to 96 kHz/24-bit PCM. Format compatibility of the various inputs is subject to change without notice.

This future-proof digital module is ready for any current or foreseeable high resolution digital format.

In the finest Gryphon tradition, the Diablo 120 also offers the alternative of an exceptional MM/MC phono stage for the dedicated enthusiasts who continue to enjoy the musical treasures etched in the grooves of the long-playing, black vinyl disc.

Gryphon Diablo 120 conveys music with unusual poise and exceptional subtlety and definition. Lightning reflexes combine with harmonic richness, articulation and refinement to create a lush whole that is very comfortable to listen to over extended periods even at realistic levels.

Gryphon Diablo 120 offers a unique level of musical enthusiasm and energy that will satisfy and delight for many years to come.



## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Diablo 120

- True Dual Mono configuration
- Zero negative feedback
- Microprocessor-controlled 46-step relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance featuring only up to 6 resistors in series with signal at all levels
- Optional phono stage MM/MC module
- Optional DAC PCM/DSD module with one USB, 1 BNC S/PDIF, 1 AES/EBU and 1 optical input
- Digital formats. USB: PCM: 44.1kHz, 48 kHz, 88.2 kHz, 96kHz, 176.4 kHz, 192 kHz, 352.8 kHz and 384 kHz up to 32-bit.
- USB: DSD (DoP); DSD64 (2.822 MHz, 3.072 MHz), DSD128 (5.644 MHz, 6.144 MHz).
- USB Native DSD: DSD256\* (11.2896 MHz) and DSD512\* (22.5792 MHz) (currently, DSD256 and DSD512 only on Windows OS)
- BNC S/PDIF and AES/EBU digital inputs: up to 192 kHz/32-bit
- TOSLink: up to 96 kHz/24-bit
- One optional module can be installed at time of purchase or later, either phono stage or DAC
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- Two to four-layer printed circuit boards up to 70 $\mu$ m copper

- Dual Mono Holmgren toroidal transformer
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated Neutric XLR sockets for one balanced source
- Gold-plated phono sockets with Teflon insulation for four inputs and one Tape output
- Fixed-level AV throughput for uncompromising integration with surround preamplifier
- Graphical Vacuum Fluorescent Display with larger font for improved legibility
- Adjustable display intensity (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off)
- 12VDC link input and output
- Flash memory upgrades via Key-Fob
- Non-invasive protection system
- Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Standby power consumption < 0.5 W
- Designed and built in Denmark
- 2 x 120 W @ 8W, 2 x 240 W @ 4W, 2 x 440 W @ 2W
- Output impedance: 0.030W
- Bandwidth (-3 dB): 0.1 Hz to 250 kHz
- Power Supply Capacity: 2 x 60,000  $\mu$ F
- Gain: +38 dB
- Input Impedance, balanced (20-20,000 Hz): 20 kW
- Input Impedance, single-ended (20-20,000 Hz): 8 kW

# Diablo 120 DAC Module

The Diablo 120 DAC module is the perfect match for the new Diablo 120 integrated amplifier. With the DAC installed, the Diablo 120 display informs you about the active digital input, sampling frequency, PCM/DSD format and selected digital filter setting.

At the time of original purchase or as the need arises at a later date, Gryphon Diablo 120 can be fitted with a specially designed Gryphon DAC module based on the innovative, award-winning Gryphon Kalliope digital-to-analogue converter. The module adds four digital inputs (USB, balanced AES/EBU 115 Ω, TosLink optical and BNC S/PDIF 75 Ω). USB can process PCM up to 32-bit/384 kHz as well as DSD (on Windows OS up to DSD512, on Mac OS up to DSD128, on Linux OS up to DSD128 DoP); via BNC S/PDIF and AES/EBU digital inputs up to 192 kHz/32-bit PCM and via TosLink up to 96 kHz/24-bit PCM. Format compatibility of the various inputs is subject to change without notice.

This future-proof digital module is ready for any current or foreseeable high resolution digital format.

## Features and Specifications

- True Dual Mono Class A Analogue topology
- Zero negative feedback
- Sabre ES9018 High-End D/A converter
- USB input compatible with following audio formats via PC/MAC/Linux:
  - PCM: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352.8 and 384 kHz, up to 32 bits
  - DSD via USB: DSD64 (2.822MHz, 3.072MHz), DSD128 (5.644MHz, 6.144MHz), DSD256\* (11.2896MHz) and DSD512\* (22.5792MHz)
- XLR, BNC inputs compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 64, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz, up to 32 bits

- TosLink input compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 64, 88.2 and 96kHz
- User-selectable PCM and DSD digital roll-off filters
- Temperature-compensated, ultra-low jitter crystal oscillator with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- Super-Capacitor (12.5 Farad!) power supply for USB module - acts like a true battery supply
- First-order PCM analogue filters and second-order DSD analogue filters with Polypropylene capacitors
- Analogue output stages with discrete, ultra-low noise +/- 15VDC regulated voltage supplies for excellent analogue THD and noise suppression
- Multiple Local Voltage regulators for best digital noise suppression
- Discrete, separate left/right channel ultra-low noise power supply for analogue section of ES9018 DAC
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- One four-layer printed circuit boards with 70µm copper
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated Neutric XLR socket for one balanced 110Ω AES/EBU source
- Gold-plated 75Ω BNC sockets with Teflon insulation for one S/PDIF source
- One TosLink optical input
- Designed and built in Denmark

\* (at the moment, DSD256 and DSD512 only on Windows systems)

Gryphon Audio Designs reserves the right to change specifications without further notice.

# Diablo 120 on Review



## Diablo 120 + Mojo

"Now the music becomes emotionally accessible and invested. The rest of it—the usual talk of frequency response, tonal balance, soundstaging etc. - is just small print."



6moons.com

## Diablo 120

"Let's make it clear up front: Gryphon Diablo 120 is an amazingly good amplifier. It exudes authority and maintains control of loudspeakers, with sufficient finesse to reveal even the slightest variations in chamber music or jazz recordings."



Stereoplus.no

## Diablo 120

"Diablo 120 fulfills all these criteria with competence and intelligence, without concession or compromise and at the same time achieves all objectives of linearity, stability, consistency and authority."

Audio Italy

## Diablo 120

"Simply amazing"

Audio.de



## Diablo 120

"Powerful, efficient and very musical, Diablo 120 is one of the 3 or 4 best integrated amps in its price range."

Haute Fidelité. France



## Diablo 120 and Mojo S

"embodies everything the brand stands for, from the striking aesthetics to performance that is both high-end and highly musical."



"what it does deliver in combination with the Mojos, is a sense of unburstable musical enthusiasm, dynamic headroom, and rhythmic authority – in a package that's easier on the wallet, considerably easier on the running costs, and demands a lot less real estate."

Hi-Fi plus UK

## Diablo 120 and Mojo S

"This is the first rung on the ladder to greatness from the grandmasters of Scandinavian high end audio systems, Gryphon. Both phenomenally well-made and exceptionally well-matched, this power duo work beautifully."

Hi-Fi Plus UK, April, 2019

# Gryphon Kalliope

## Digital to Analogue Converter



*In any audio system, there are certain points along the signal path that are more crucial than others. These are the intersections where the signal is converted from one form of energy into another. Such transformations occur when the needle of a phono cartridge traverses the micro-grooves of a vinyl record, converting kinetic energy into an electrical signal. At the opposite end of the signal path, loudspeakers must transform electrical input into acoustic output.*

But perhaps the most critical transformation of all is the conversion of the output of digital sources into an analogue signal, ideally without loss or distortion of any kind. Despite the lofty claims of many manufacturers, what is lost or changed at this point can never be recovered or restored.

In acknowledgment of the on-going refinement of digital audio sources and the rapid evolution of high-resolution digital audio formats, Gryphon Audio Designs now presents the Gryphon Kalliope digital to analogue converter to stand as the gateway that conveys the musical signal from one domain to the next in utterly pristine condition.

### Three Reasons Why Bits Are Not Just Bits

The well-worn phrase "Bits is bits" encapsulates the widespread misconception that any reasonably constructed digital system will result in "Pure, Perfect Sound Forever," in the lamentable promotional slogan coined by the inventors of the compact disc.

1) Digital audio is not a simple one-dimensional row of numbers, where all that is required is to keep the correct numbers in the correct order. In fact, it is a data stream of numbers flowing through time. And the right number at the wrong time is (almost) as bad as the wrong number.

**"The Kalliope DAC follows the other Gryphon Audio Designs products I have reviewed, which were so extraordinary that they made me rethink my own system!"**  
**"It is the combination of immediacy, definition, and timing that sets this unit apart from lesser units hoping to achieve excellence. There is no doubt that the attention Gryphon Audio Designs' paid to power supply and distribution helps play a key role here. At no time did I hear any constraints, or feel there was any dynamic compression of the music."**

**Enjoythemusic.com**

**"Gryphon masters to perfection digital audio technology to such an extent that we can call the Kalliope "Reference" for amazing realism and utterly analogue fluidity. A total success!"**

**Haute Fidelité, France**

Gryphon Kalliope ensures effective correction/prevention of timing errors (jitter) using sophisticated circuit topology and exclusive, custom-built components.

2) Following digital to analogue conversion, an analogue filter is required to remove high frequency noise. The deleterious side effects of a typical steep-slope "brickwall" filter include temporal smearing, energy loss, compromised resolution and reduced transparency.

Gryphon Kalliope employs advanced technologies and an innovative, minimalist single-component filter with no adverse audible impact.

3) Advocates of the "bits is bits" attitude tend to ignore the fact that at the end of all digital signal processing there is an analogue stage. The circuit design, component selection, power supply and layout of this stage are all just as critical now in the digital era as they ever were in the analogue age.

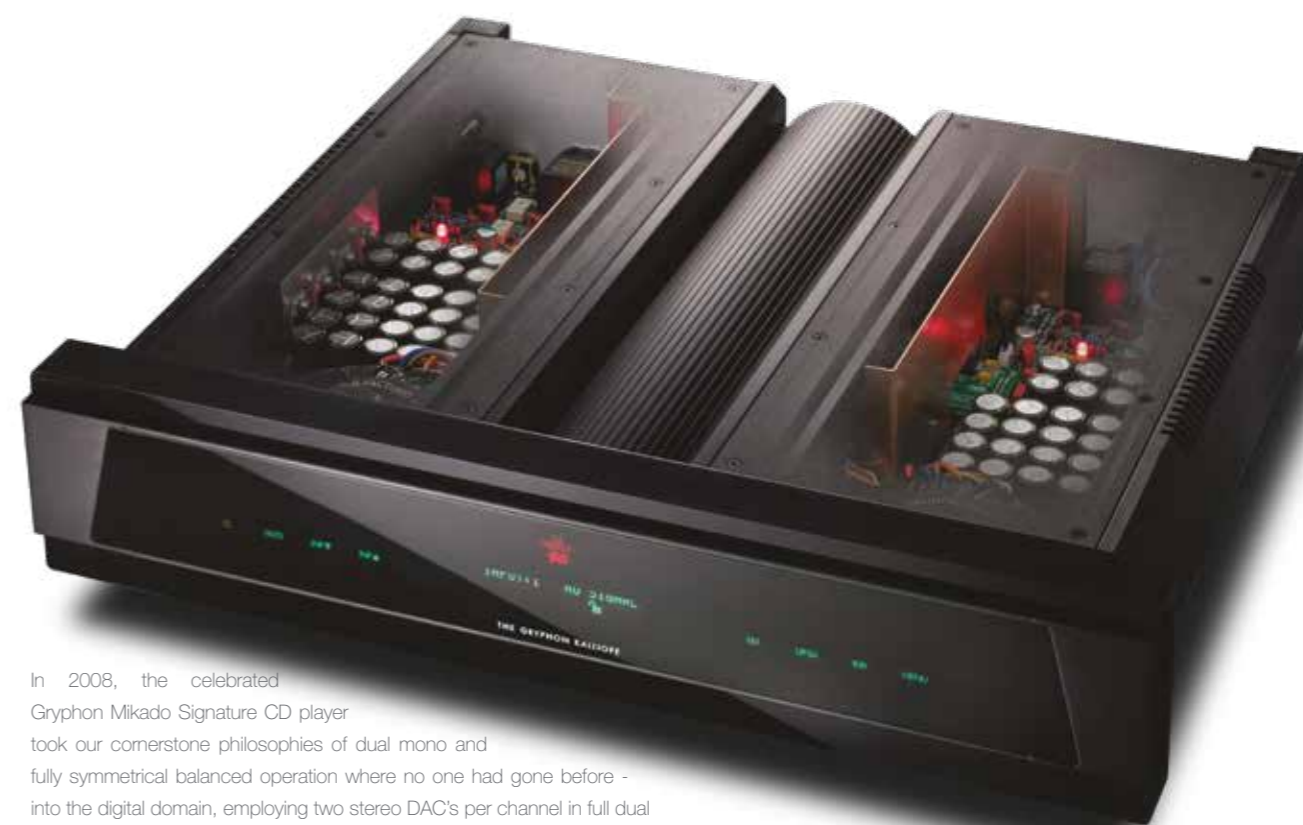
Gryphon Kalliope draws on decades of experience in the design and construction of some of the finest analogue audio systems the world has ever known.

### Digital Pioneers

Kalliope is far from Gryphon's first foray into the digital arena. Throughout the digital era, Gryphon Audio Designs have stood for major innovations, paving the way for others to follow. In 1998,

Gryphon introduced the world to the sonic benefits of 88.2 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion in the CDP-1 CD player, the world's first implementation of this advanced technology.

Gryphon Adagio, launched in 2001, and Gryphon Mikado, released in 2003, upgraded to 24-bit/96 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion, preserving linearity for vastly reduced distortion and noise.



In 2008, the celebrated Gryphon Mikado Signature CD player took our cornerstone philosophies of dual mono and fully symmetrical balanced operation where no one had gone before - into the digital domain, employing two stereo DAC's per channel in full dual differential mode running 32-bit/192 kHz. This configuration drastically lowers the digital noise floor and contributes to the expansive soundstage and sharply focused stereo image of digital audio by Gryphon.

Now, with selectable 32-bit/210 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion and a dedicated ESS SABRE ES9018 32-bit D/A converter per channel, incorporating eight individual D/A converters in Dual Differential coupling, the Gryphon Kalliope DAC builds on the brand's unique heritage and continues to lead the way.

### Stability and Control

Gryphon Kalliope reaps the full benefits of Gryphon's uncompromising design philosophy, including strict dual mono configuration, minimal internal wiring, fully isolated separate power supplies for analogue, digital and control/display circuitry and exclusive, custom components such as precision crystal oscillators and toroidal transformers.

To ensure unlimited, pure power to all stages, transformer windings for digital and analogue sections are physically separated and the four-layer printed circuit board employs a 70 µm copper trace to ensure optimal grounding and power distribution as well as signal transfer.

For maximum control and stability, each analogue channel in Gryphon Kalliope employs a dedicated custom-built 65 VA toroidal transformer and 34,000 microFarad power capacitor banks. Built from the finest discrete components, Kalliope eschews capacitor banks based on a few large capacitors, in favour of parallel-coupled clusters of smaller, high-performance caps (a total of 28), for lower equivalent series resistance.

Kalliope's substantial, heavily regulated high-current power supplies would not be out of place in a typical integrated amplifier.

### Direct Stream Digital

In addition to PCM sources all the way up to 32 bits and 384 kHz sampling frequency, Gryphon Kalliope is among the select few digital to analogue converters that is fully compatible with the DSD (Direct Stream Digital) audio format.

Unlike the mainstream PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) standard employed for CD, WAV files, etc., DSD employs Pulse Density Modulation and a sample rate of up to 6.144 MHz.

DSD was the core of the now largely dormant Super Audio CD format, ▶



## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Kalliope

- Dedicated ESS SABRE ES9018 32-bit D/A converter for each channel
- Each ES9018 incorporates eight individual D/A converters in Dual Differential coupling for optimal performance
- USB input compatible with following audio formats via PC/MAC: PCM: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352.8 and 384 kHz, up to 32 bits
- DSD via USB (DoP): 2.822, 3.072, 5.644 and 6.144 MHz
- BNC and XLR inputs compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 64, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz, up to 24 bits
- User-selectable PCM and DSD digital roll-off filters
- User-selectable asynchronous PCM sample rate conversion
- Temperature-compensated, ultra-low jitter crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- Total galvanic isolation of PC/ MAC sources for optimal noise rejection
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU input
- Three single-ended 75 Ohm BNC S/PDIF inputs.
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU output for de-jittered signal from selected input
- Galvanic isolation of BNC and XLR inputs for minimal jitter
- 75 Ohm BNC connector for optional external word clock
- Modular digital audio sections for possible future upgrades
- True Class A, fully discrete analogue circuitry with zero negative feedback

- First-order PCM analogue filters and second-order DSD analogue filters with silvered Mica capacitors
- Analogue output stages with discrete, ultra-low noise +/- 25VDC regulated voltage supplies for best THD and noise suppression
- Discrete, ultra-low noise power supply for analogue section of ES9018 DAC
- Comprehensive noise regulation of all digital circuits
- Custom-built 65 VA toroidal transformer for each analogue channel
- 34,000 microFarad power capacitor banks for each analogue channel
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Balanced XLR analogue outputs and single-ended phono outputs
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Four-layer 70 µm thick copper trace PCB's
- Personalised naming of each input
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with variable illumination
- No drivers required for LINUX or MAC OSX
- Driver available for Windows XP/Vista/7/8
- Automatic standby mode with user-selectable interval
- Standby power consumption less than 0.5W in accordance with EU regulations
- 12V link in/out
- Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark

► but lives on in the form of an ever expanding library of downloadable audio files widely regarded as the highest resolution presently available to the consumer.

Note: DSD files on an SACD cannot be accessed for playback via an external DAC due to copyright protection issues.

### User Interface

For convenience and intuitive ease of use, Gryphon Kalliope's functions can be accessed via remote control or soft-touch buttons on the front panel: On/Standby, Mute On/Off, Input Selection, Digital Filter selection, Sample Rate Conversion On/Off, Phase +/- . The remote also includes adjustment of display brightness (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off).

For PCM playback, a fast or slow linear phase non-dispersive digital filter can be selected. For DSD playback via USB, a 50, 60, or 70 Hz A

A Infinite Impulse Response (IIR) digital roll-off filter can be selected.

Kalliope is fitted with a phase inverter, because some source components, power amplifiers and even recordings may inadvertently invert the phase of the signal. Kalliope allows the owner to correct this error while seated at the main listening position.

The Kalliope front panel menu provides control of additional features, including naming of sources, default display brightness, word clock synchronization for use with an external word clock, output attenuation of 0 dB (Off) or -6 dB to match levels to other sources and a user-selectable Auto Standby mode that can be set to force powerdown after 30 minutes, 60 minutes, 2 hours or 4 hours. A Reset function immediately restores all default settings. The easily legible Vacuum Fluorescent Display provides confirmation of current settings.

### Well Connected

In addition to carefully executed, galvanically isolated digital inputs (three 75 Ohm BNC and one 110 Ohm XLR) to minimise jitter and noise, Gryphon Kalliope is also fitted with a 110 Ohm XLR digital output which makes the de-jittered signal from the selected input available to other equipment.

Gryphon Kalliope eliminates phono plug S/PDIF connections, because the BNC connector is the only way to ensure a true 75 Ohm impedance for optimal data transfer.

For increasingly popular computer music sources, Gryphon Kalliope incorporates a state of the art, bit-perfect, asynchronous and galvanically

isolated USB input, capable of full 32-bit/384 kHz data transmission. Because Kalliope is a native Class Two USB device, simple installation of appropriate drivers is necessary for PC users. Drivers are pre-installed on Macs.

Music playback via conventional synchronous USB is a one-way connection that uses the computer's bus frame rate as its clock source, resulting in highly unstable timing. Adaptive USB is marginally better, as it allows the receiver chip to adapt to the drifting signal by constantly adjusting its own frequency. However, both methods introduce substantial levels of jitter.

With asynchronous USB transfer mode (unrelated to asynchronous sample rate conversion), the Gryphon Kalliope master clock is not synchronized to a clock in the computer. Instead, the Kalliope's high-precision internal clock controls the data stream from the computer to a buffer near the DAC, eliminating a major source of timing errors.

Input signals sync to one of two clocks depending on the signal's sample frequency, a 22.5792 MHz clock for multiples of 44.1 kHz and a 24.5760 MHz clock for multiples of 48 kHz. Operating at true multiples of the signal's original sampling frequency ensures far more accurate timing.

While Gryphon Kalliope is fitted with a 75 Ohm BNC connector for optional synchronisation via an external word clock signal, the Kalliope's internal, independent, specially designed, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with accuracy better than 5 parts per million address crucial timing issues so effectively that its superb clock-extraction circuitry removes all traces of clock jitter and other clocking artefacts.

### Asynchronous Sample Rate Conversion

Gryphon Kalliope offers the owner the option of upsampling PCM sources with a native resolution of up to 32-bit/192 kHz to 32-bit/210 kHz. Clock rate conversion up to 40 MHz in the DAC minimises jitter and eliminates the need for steep-slope analogue filtering, shifting aliasing noise upward in frequency for zero impact in the audible range, for an effectively transparent filter function.

Gryphon Kalliope employs state of the art algorithms to execute these complex mathematical calculations with extreme speed and precision.

While sample rate conversion cannot restore lost information nor generate new information, properly executed sample rate conversion in the Gryphon Kalliope does create optimal working conditions for digital and analogue circuits, allowing them to more accurately reproduce all the information that is available. ►

**"The Gryphon Audio Kalliope was so incredibly transparent that certain aural cues most people never truly hear are laid bare, yet without minimizations or augmentation. If I was to rename the Kalliope, it would be called "The Truth" because that is what it delivers."**

[enjoythemusic.com](http://enjoythemusic.com)

### Haute Fidélité, France - March 2015

"Knowing the Danish brand and especially its preamplifiers and amplifiers, we could suspect that the specifications presiding on arrival on the market of the Kalliope DAC was going to place very high the level of the requirements. It is ! Technical choices are quite different from competitors, as we have seen it in what precedes. The quality of design suffers no criticism, especially as the Kalliope decorates of numerous possibilities, very pleasant to



optimize its use. But especially, its very high musicality establishes better asset of this DAC. Gryphon masters perfectly the audio digital technology to the point that we can speak about reference for this Kalliope, amazing at realism and at quite analog fluidity. A total success!"

Manufacturing	CONSTRUCTION	■■■■■■■■
Components	COMPONANTS	■■■■■■■■
Bass	GRAVE	■■■■■■■■
Medium	MEDIUM	■■■■■■■■
Treble	AIGU	■■■■■■■■
Dynamic	DYNAMIQUE	■■■■■■■■
Attack of note	ATTAQUE DE NOTE	■■■■■■■■
Soundstage	SCÈNE SONORE	■■■■■■■■
Transparency	TRANSPARENCE	■■■■■■■■
Value for money	QUALITE/PRIX	■■■■■■■■

► The sample rate conversion process allows the implementation of a non-invasive, gentler, simpler, high quality analogue filter consisting of a single silvered Mica capacitor with high slew rate and tight tolerances. Separate filters are used for PCM and DSD.

After comprehensive listening sessions to seek out the best available digital-to-analogue conversion technology without regard to cost or other extraneous considerations, Gryphon equipped the Kalliope with the most sophisticated digital to analogue conversion available today.

The final analogue stages are based on carefully selected fully discrete components of the highest quality.

Gryphon Kalliope is built to extract the very best from present and future digital audio sources from the humble CD to wideband, high-resolution DSD and PCM files.

## Kalliope on Review

Positive feedback USA Kalliope received the "Brutus Award" 2017

*"If you would like to hear one of the best DSD DACs in the world, you should avail yourself of any opportunity to hear the Kalliope. It's a sonic knockout."*

*"Thou shall have no other gods."*

Andrea Della Sala, Fedelta del Suona, italy

*"This one is becoming a permanent reference at Tone"*

Tone Audio USA, Jeff Dogary

Outstanding Kalliope review from Italy, September 06, 2014:

*"In the years to come, we shall talk of this DAC as a veritable watershed."*

*"the Kalliope makes you look at your turntable and think why bother?"*

Tone Audio 2015

### Cutting Edge Digital Prowess

With a vigilant eye on the rapid evolution of the state of digital technology, Gryphon Kalliope is built to be future-proof with modular digital audio sections that allow practical upgrading, as the opportunity arises.

The consummate build quality, engineering, mechanical integrity and functional elegance of the Gryphon Kalliope can only hint at the musical glories that await from this musical instrument designed solely to preserve the integrity and purity of the original musical event.

To experience what mere words cannot communicate, you are cordially invited to visit your nearest authorised Gryphon Audio Designs showroom for a demonstration of the cutting edge digital prowess of the Gryphon Kalliope.

*"Gryphon Audio Designs' Kalliope is exceedingly recommended for those who want the very best DAC"*

Enjoy the Music 2014

Kalliope wins the esteemed Blue Note award, September 2014:

*"It is hard for me to imagine a more musically accurate DAC in the marketplace today"*

*Prepare to be enchanted."*  
6 moons, Switzerland

Kalliope Award from Top Audio Show in Russia:

- National Award
- Top High End
- Product Of The Year
- Nomination – DAC above \$3000

*" Those looking for long-term musical satisfaction rather than audio angst need look no further than Gryphon."*

The Audio Beat. 2016 , Roy Gregory



# Gryphon Ethos

## Integrated Compact Disc Player and Digital to Analogue Converter



*The sleek lines, low profile and stylish blend of metalwork and high-gloss acrylic in the exterior design of the Gryphon Ethos CD player can only begin to hint at the sophisticated technology concealed within as Gryphon Audio Designs again takes up the challenge of creating the definitive combination of CD transport and digital-to-analogue converter.*

Gryphon Audio Designs have stood for major innovations throughout the digital era with an acclaimed series of CD players that, perhaps more than most, deserve to be described as integrated transport/DAC's.

In the once crowded, but now nearly vacant field of CD player design, the Gryphon story began with our very first digital source component at the

close of the previous millennium. In 1998, The Gryphon CDP-1 CD player introduced the world to the sonic improvements offered by 88.2 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion, the world's first implementation of this advanced technology, now ubiquitous in digital audio.

Never willing to rest on our laurels, the Gryphon Adagio, successor to the CDP-1, was launched in 2001, taking digital musicality to the next level with asynchronous 24-bit/96 kHz sample rate conversion. After further refinement of this technology in the Gryphon Mikado, released in 2003, the implementation of 32-bit/192 kHz upsampling in the acclaimed Gryphon Mikado Signature represented another giant leap forward, once again breaking new ground and laying out a path for others to follow.

The first Gryphon separate digital-to-analogue converter, Kalliope, was universally praised in the world audio press. "Kalliope reproduces music in all its harmonic richness, giving free rein to voices and instruments, well differentiated with a fluidity that is exemplary." *Haute Fidélité*, March 2015.

The Gryphon Ethos remains faithful to the brand's signature sound of great musical distinction, achieving a veritable musical alchemy with fast transient response and consistent tonal accuracy, regardless of the selected listening level. Perfect harmony alongside often contradictory parameters such as fluid handling of melody and rock-solid positioning in the stereo image is extremely rare, making the Gryphon Ethos an even more remarkable accomplishment, as manufacturers surrender to uninformed consumer pressure to deliver all-in-one "universal" audio and video disc playback.

### Dedication and Devotion

Gryphon Ethos plays compact disc. Period. Full stop. It does not play video discs of any kind whatsoever, nor does it play any of the so-called "high resolution" audio formats.

Gryphon Ethos will quite simply reveal more of the hidden treasures in your CD collection than any other player, "universal" or otherwise, up to and well beyond its price point. That is its sole mission.

Gryphon Ethos is designed unapologetically with single-minded dedication to the compact disc, because this focused approach enables Gryphon Audio Designs to devote all our resources and expertise to releasing the full, unfettered musical potential of CD playback.

CD continues to be a maturing technology and by making that medium all that it can be, Gryphon Audio Designs can offer sound quality comparable to the so-called high-resolution audio formats. The immense catalogue of new and old CD titles will all benefit from the advances made in the Gryphon Ethos. We are confident that discerning audiophiles will appreciate what the Gryphon Ethos can do for their extensive and ever expanding music collections.

### "Only" a CD player

Developing and manufacturing a dedicated High End CD player at this elevated price level certainly demands no small amount of courage in this day and age with low-budget universal disc players readily available. Because the Gryphon Ethos eliminates varying rotational speeds, video handling, multi-channel playback and other functions that are irrelevant to stereo music listening, it is devoted exclusively to compact disc playback with no compromise and no concessions. ▶



► When you choose the Gryphon Ethos, you know that its CD performance is not a mere afterthought. It is the player's very reason for existing.

### Bullseye on a Moving Target

We designed the Ethos integrated CD player to be a moving target in the rapid evolution of digital audio. In addition to handling standard 16-bit/44.1 kHz "Redbook" CD, the Ethos offers convenient playback and can be connected to external sources up to 32-bit/384 kHz PCM and up to DSD512. For once, hardware is keeping pace with software, making this a truly exciting time to cultivate digital audio, as a growing number of titles become available in these ultra hi-rez formats. Music lovers will be startled when they finally experience the untapped potential of Gryphon amplifiers and loudspeakers with these formats.

Taking our cornerstone philosophies of dual mono and fully symmetrical balanced operation still further, Gryphon Ethos is fully balanced throughout the digital DAC domain as well, implementing eight DAC's in full dual differential mode. This configuration drastically lowers the digital noise floor and contributes to the expansive soundstage and sharply focused stereo image of the Gryphon Ethos.

In the interest of extracting the purest, most unadulterated sound possible, timing issues (jitter) are effectively addressed with two independent, specially designed, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators accurate to better than five parts per million.

Equally impressive is the selection of components employed in this construction: from the power supplies to the voltage regulation straight through to the lavishly engineered output stages.

After comprehensive listening sessions to seek out the best available digital-to-analog conversion technology without regard to cost or other extraneous considerations, Gryphon selected the ESS SABRE ES9038PRO 32-bit DAC chips, capable of full 32-bit processing in a dual-differential, dual-mono topology. This advanced DAC at the heart of the Gryphon Ethos makes a major contribution to the player's effortlessly natural rendering of a three-dimensional soundscape with exceptional timing and razor-shape detail.

### Asynchronous Upsampling

Gryphon Ethos employs state of the art, user selectable asynchronous sample rate conversion to execute complex mathematical calculations with extreme speed and precision. Without upsampling, a brickwall analog filter would be required following the conversion process, resulting in temporal smearing, energy loss, compromised resolution and reduced transparency.

Gryphon upsampling permits the use of a simpler, lower-order analog output filter, the integrity of the signal reproduced by the Gryphon Ethos is

uncompromisingly conveyed against a silent background with a noise floor well below that of the recording itself.

The upsampled signal is decoded via a digital filter with a much gentler roll-off and, consequently, dramatically increased resolution, detail, spaciousness, focus, transient accuracy and harmonic integrity.

As contrasted with an upsampling filter, which processes the data-stream at a higher frequency in order to shift the spectrum of quantization noise up and away from the range in which it is most detrimental (and not in a vain effort to achieve greater information density), upsampling is a process in which the sampling rate is increased prior to conversion.

Properly implemented upsampling eliminates the need for conventional, steep-slope analogue filtering altogether. In the Gryphon Ethos, this filter is replaced by a single, silvered Mica capacitor acting as a simple, first-order analogue output filter, preserving the integrity of the audio signal for a pristine presentation staged against an utterly silent, "black" backdrop.

By executing the filter function benignly in the digital domain with asynchronous 32-bit/384 kHz sample rate conversion, Gryphon Ethos achieves extraordinary resolution of fine detail, sharp image focus and extended high-frequency response.

The heavily regulated, fully discrete, fully balanced Class A analogue output stage employs zero negative feedback and offers both balanced XLR and single-ended phono outputs. The analog section is supplied with +23 Volts and careful attention has been paid to power supplies with separate transformers and comprehensive regulation.

This "overkill" solution yields perfect channel separation, greatly improved out-of-band noise suppression and significantly enhanced dynamic range.

The die-cast chassis of the transport mechanism features high reliability and extremely effective error correction.

With two separate custom-built analogue toroidal transformers and two separate digital power supplies, the digital, analogue, transport and display circuits exploit the benefits of isolated, heavily regulated power supplies.

The signal path is, naturally, as short as possible and the balanced analogue outputs are the finest Neutrik, while the Gryphon single-ended connectors are gold-plated.

### User-Selectable Digital Filters

Gryphon Ethos features a range of digital roll-off options, seven distinct PCM filters and three DSD filters, which allow the user to fine-tune the tone of the player to personal taste.

The instantly recognizable and much loved Gryphon disc cover is illuminated by a ring of attractive blue LED's. The lid effectively seals the top-loading mechanism, isolating the disc from external forces. The precision-tooled, ►



## Features

### Gryphon Ethos

- Exclusive, CD-only CD-Pro8 transport with all-metal chassis
- Extensive mechanical decoupling of the CD transport
- Dedicated ESS SABRE ES9038PRO 32-bit D/A converter for each channel
- Each ES9038Pro incorporates eight individual D/A converters in Dual Differential coupling for optimal performance
- User-selectable, 7 different PCM and 3 DSD digital roll-off filters
- User-selectable, asynchronous PCM sample rate conversion to 384kHz and PCM to DSD conversion to DSD128.
- Temperature-compensated, ultra-low jitter crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- USB input compatible with following audio formats via PC/MAC:
  - PCM: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352.8 and 384 kHz, up to 32 bits
  - DSD via USB: DSD64 (up to 3.072 MHz), DSD128 (up to 6.144 MHz), DSD256 (up to 12.288 MHz) and DSD512 (up to 24.576 MHz)
- No USB driver required for LINUX or MAC OSX
- USB driver available for Windows
- Super-Capacitor (12.5 Farad!) power supply for USB module - for true battery source
- Digital BNC and XLR inputs compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 64, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz, up to 24 bits
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU digital input
- Single-ended 75 Ohm BNC S/PDIF digital input
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU digital output from CD transport
- Galvanic isolation of all digital BNC and XLR inputs and outputs for minimal jitter
- Comprehensive noise regulation of all digital circuits
- Modular digital audio sections for possible future upgrades
- True Class A, fully discrete analogue circuitry with zero negative feedback
- First-order PCM analogue filters and user selectable second-order DSD analogue filter with silvered Mica capacitors
- Analogue output stages with low noise +/- 23 VDC regulated voltage supplies for low THD and noise suppression
- Custom-built 32 VA toroidal transformer for each analogue channel
- 20,000 microFarad power capacitor banks for each analogue channel
- True Dual Mono analogue and DAC configuration
- Balanced XLR analogue outputs and single-ended phono outputs
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Four-layer 70 mm thick copper trace PCB's
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with variable illumination
- Personalised naming of each input
- Solid aluminium top plate
- Gold-plated CD clamp
- Polished acrylic base
- Brushed, aluminium arm
- Side-mounted heatsinks
- Gryphon designed Atlas adjustable feet
- Constrained layer damping vibration control
- CD well with LED lighting
- Automatic standby mode with user-selectable interval
- Standby power consumption less than 0.5W in accordance with EU regulations
- 12V link in
- Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark



► gold-plated CD clamp is an integral component with carefully balanced mass that contributes to the stability and correct rotational speed of the disc.

The drive mechanism incorporates extensive mechanical de-coupling with an effective clamping system to eliminate spurious disc motion. The acrylic and brushed, natural aluminium housing provide significant vibration-absorbent constrained layer damping for effective resonance control.

The remote control shows the same attention to detail as the rest of the player: the heavy, black metal slab fits well in the hand with a back layer of rubber so that it doesn't slide on the underlying surface.

### Power and Isolation

The Gryphon Ethos reaps the full benefits of hallmark Gryphon technologies, including strict dual mono configuration, minimal internal wiring, fully isolated separate power supplies for analogue (left and right channels), digital and transport/display circuitry and exclusive, custom components.

Digital, analog and display circuitry and their dedicated power supplies are carefully isolated in the Gryphon Ethos. The display is housed independently outside the main chassis and draws on a power supply that is isolated from the digital audio power supply.

Gryphon Ethos rests atop three adjustable Gryphon Atlas Spikes, assembled from carefully selected parts made of Polyoxymethylene (POM), aluminium and tempered steel. Extensive listening tests confirm that the mechanical characteristics of this specific combination of materials make it an ideal, one-way conduit for resonances.

Early on, Gryphon research established that the size, shape and materials employed in spikes can have significant influence on sound quality. Some materials can actually store some of the energy that they are intended to evacuate.

Gryphon Atlas spikes create a uni-directional evacuation path between the equipment and the outside world, acting as mechanical diodes, conducting energy in one direction only and effectively blocking it the other way.

### Connectivity

Gryphon Ethos is fitted with a full array of digital input and output options. AES/EBU, USB and BNC inputs allow direct connection of external digital sources (PC, music server) to the Ethos DAC section. An AES/EBU output allows connection to an external DAC. The USB socket is fully compatible with a wide variety of digital audio formats.

The fully isolated vacuum fluorescent display (VFD) provides user-selectable display lighting (Off, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%) for a practical, instant overview of disc and player status.

CD mode displays number of tracks, playing time, Repeat One or Repeat

All, digital filter, sample rate (no oversampling or upsampling to 384 kHz or DSD128). DAC mode displays input number, input name up to eight characters, sample rate, PCM, DSD, digital filter. Upsampling and phase inversion indicators are illuminated by LED bars.

The battleship build quality, constrained layer damping and carefully engineered mechanical integrity of the Gryphon Ethos eliminate digital noise and interference between the various stages of the player, making it a functionally elegant musical instrument designed solely to preserve the integrity and purity of the original musical event.

With a rare level of precise control, the Gryphon Ethos masters any task you could assign it. Thanks to its finely balanced sound, it will seamlessly fit into any imaginable system configuration. With products like this, the wait for new high-resolution digital media is made immensely easy.

The Gryphon Ethos also celebrates the compact disc's 35 years as the medium of choice for music in the home, demonstrating that in the skilled hands of Gryphon's driven, skilled engineers there is even more musical pleasure and realism to be extracted from the silver disc than you had ever imagined.

### Built for the Future

Thanks to its distinctive modular design, Gryphon Ethos is built to keep pace with digital technology as it evolves. Convenient modification of digital or analogue circuits by your local authorized Gryphon service centre as upgrades become available

will ensure that your Gryphon Ethos remains on the cutting edge of CD playback.



# Gryphon Scorpio S CD Player

Gryphon Audio Designs has an unrivalled track record for innovation in High End audio. In the field of CD player design, the story begins with our very first digital source component at the close of the previous millennium. The Gryphon CDP-1 CD player introduced the world to the sonic improvements offered by upsampling, a technology now ubiquitous in digital audio.

Refusing to rest on our laurels, the successor to the CDP-1, Gryphon Adagio, took digital musicality to the next level with asynchronous 24-bit/96 kHz sample rate conversion. After further refinement of this technology in the Gryphon Mikado, the implementation of 32-bit/192 kHz upsampling in the acclaimed Gryphon Mikado Signature represented another giant leap forward, once again breaking new ground and blazing a trail for others to follow. Gryphon Scorpio S will reveal more of the hidden treasures in your CD collection than any other player, "universal" or otherwise, up to and well beyond its price point. That is its sole mission.

## Digital Integrity

Based on comprehensive listening sessions in the quest for the best available digital-to-analog conversion technology without regard to cost or other extraneous considerations, Gryphon Scorpio S employs an Asahi Kasei Microsystems Delta-Sigma DAC from the acclaimed designers of the world's finest professional A-to-D and D-to-A converters. The advanced DAC at the heart of the Gryphon Scorpio S makes a major contribution to the player's effortlessly natural rendering of a three-dimensional soundscape with exceptional timing and razor-shape detail.

Gryphon's pioneering upsampling technology significantly reduces filter demands on the analogue side of the D/A converter by shifting the spectrum of quantization noise (aliasing) up and away from the range in which it is most detrimental, so that the upper corner frequency of the digital anti-aliasing filter is more than four times that of the standard 44.1 kHz sample rate.

Gryphon Scorpio S executes the filter function benignly in the digital domain by employing asynchronous 32-bit/192 kHz sample rate conversion originally introduced in the digital reference standard Gryphon Mikado Signature to ensure greater resolution of fine detail, sharper image focus and extended high-frequency response.

The fine, European transport mechanism is specially constructed for silent running and effective vibration damping. The stylish feel and look of the sandblasted, anodised aluminium disc tray conveys the reliability and stability of this rock-steady, precisely calibrated mechanism.

The fit and finish of the Gryphon Scorpio S is classic Gryphon in its subdued elegance and timeless beauty.

**"Thanks to Gryphon's meticulous blending of the latest technology and classic solutions, takes the sound of CDs to the highest levels of excellence."**

**Alta Fidelidad**

## Scorpio on Review



*"The Gryphon Audio Design system, like a race-winning Formula 1, has won over my heart because all the parts are finely tuned and come together to allow audiophile and music lovers alike to achieve musical excellence"*

Enjoythemusic.com, February 2011

*"One can only congratulate the designers for the success of their achievement with Scorpio, a digital source that is truly musical in every sense of the word."*

Stereo Prestige & Image, 2010, France

*"This Gryphon set will be an eye opener for those who still do not believe that an integrated amplifier can replace a pre- and power amplifier combination."*

*"The money saved on interconnects and power cables can be invested in improved room acoustics or AC power that can have a significant effect on system performance"*

Audio Video Magazine, Brazil

*"If you have a heart - you want, and if you have money - you buy."*

Pro High End, Russia

*"State of the Art"*

Alta Fidelidad, Spain, Jan. 2011

*"Those looking for long-term musical satisfaction rather than audio angst need look no further than Gryphon."*

The Audio Beat. 2016, Roy Gregory

## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Scorpio S

- Four Dual-Differential 32-bit/192 kHz AKM asynchronous digital-to-analogue converters with separate regulated power supplies
- Upsampling to 32-bit/192 kHz for enhanced sonic performance
- Gentle digital filter roll-off for ultra-pure high frequencies
- Two custom-built, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- European transport with front loading metal tray True class A, fully discrete analogue circuits with no negative feedback
- First-order analogue filter with silvered Mica capacitor
- +/- 20 VDC regulated voltage supplies for best THD and noise suppression in analogue sections
- Separate custom-built Noratel toroidal transformers for digital and analogue sections
- 15,000 microFarad power capacitor banks per channel
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Balanced analogue outputs with PCB-mounted gold-plated Neutrik XLR sockets
- 75 Ohm BNC S/PDIF digital output 4-line, 20 character display with user-selectable illumination (High/Medium/Low/Off)
- Remote control (also for basic Atilla integrated amplifier functions)
- Designed and built in Denmark

# Kodo

(Japanese)

1. Heartbeat (primal source of all rhythm)

2. Children of the drum



# Gryphon Kodo

## Reference Standard Loudspeaker System

*Few High End manufacturers on either side of the electronics/loudspeaker divide have even attempted to bridge that gap. Fewer still have managed to do electronics and speakers equally well and be widely acknowledged as masters in both fields.*

**“Exclusive. Danish. Peak performance. That’s how audiophiles view Flemming Rasmussen’s prestigious Gryphon Audio Designs brand.”**

[www.sixmoons.com](http://www.sixmoons.com)

5 mm aluminium panels. The stacked modules incorporate additional 8 mm aluminium panel supports.

The form moulded curved cosmetic exterior panels of laminated High-Density Fibreboard are damped with bitumen.

The solid aluminium base for each tower is fitted with adjustable, polyoxometalate feet.

In less skilled hands, a loudspeaker system consisting of 38 drive units spread across four 237 cm tall towers could very easily turn into a Frankenstein’s monster science project. But precisely because the Gryphon design team is equally at ease with transducers as with amplification, they – perhaps uniquely - possess the necessary prowess and ambition to pull off the formidable feat that is the Gryphon Kodo four-tower reference loudspeaker system.

Beginning with the now legendary Gryphon Poseidon in 2004 (the first public result of 10 years of top secret, in-house experimentation), Gryphon has continued to explore the numerous benefits of a closer integration of electronics and loudspeakers in our top of the line products.

Now, the Gryphon Kodo stands as the pinnacle of the loudspeaker designer’s art and craft. In selecting a finish for your Gryphon Kodo loudspeaker system, the possibilities are limited solely by your imagination. Because the side panels are based on an original modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child’s play, your choice is no longer a one-time only, lifetime proposition.

### The Four Towers

To return to the words of [www.sixmoons.com](http://www.sixmoons.com) – *“The engineering team behind Gryphon’s speaker endeavours plays ball in the top leagues.”*

Put simply, each Kodo section is a tower of strength and style.

Elegant and deceptively simple, the four towers that make up the Gryphon Kodo system are carefully conceived and executed multi-layer constructions for extreme structural integrity and acoustic damping.

The MDF side panels of the modules are reinforced with

adjustable, polyoxometalate feet.

The Kodo upper-frequency towers are laid out in a symmetrical vertical array of four 4”, exclusive Gryphon midrange drivers (two directly above and two directly below the central AMT high frequency driver) and six 5” Gryphon midbass drivers (three at the top and three at the bottom) to complement the bold design of the bass towers.

Each Gryphon Kodo bass tower houses eight custom designed 8” drive units and a built-in Gryphon power amplifier capable of 1,000 Watts continuous output into the drivers. For ultimate headroom, peak power is approximately 4,000 Watts or 4.5 horsepower.

The integrated bass system is conceived and born with a single purpose in life - to drive one specific set of drivers in one specific enclosure across a very narrowly defined frequency band. This is specialist audio at its ultimate extreme. Compared to the Gryphon Kodo, any so-called system, assembled from an assortment of unrelated products will inevitably fall short.

Gryphon Kodo offers highly desirable features such as remote adjustment of bass level from the listening position, low and high cut filters and a user-selectable bass system Q, an extremely important factor as matching system Q to the listening room’s own Q is the gateway to superior bass performance.

### In Perfect Phase

Like every loudspeaker ever made by Gryphon, the Gryphon Kodo incorporates specially developed Duelund Constant Phase technologies to ensure that all drivers are in phase at all frequencies at all times.

Based on the ground-breaking synchronous filter theories developed by the late Danish mathematician Steen ▶



# Gryphon Kodo

Reference Standard Loudspeaker System





► Duelund, Gryphon loudspeakers achieve inter-driver phase, phase-matched behaviour between multiple drivers that no other manufacturer can claim.

When we say that our speakers are in perfect phase, we mean that the drivers maintain the same relative phase across all frequencies. This is one of the keys to achieving the best sound from any loudspeaker system.

In order to live up to the uncompromising design goal of perfect phase all the time at all frequencies, the Gryphon Kodo enclosure incorporates a concave curved front to form a direct angled, time-aligned system with identical distance from the listener to the acoustic centre of each driver.

The realisation of this lofty goal demanded lateral thinking and numerous labour-intensive, custom-built components specially designed by Gryphon in close collaboration with the manufacturers of the world's finest drivers.

### The Mid/High-Frequency Module

The four 4" ScanSpeak Illuminator midrange units positioned directly above and below the tweeter module are exceptional designs with patented, low mass, well damped cones, low-loss linear suspension, rigid, yet open construction to eliminate compression, extremely long linear excursion and a patented underhung neodymium motor system with copper caps for minimal distortion.

The six 5" mid/bass drivers (three at the top and three at the bottom) are the latest revision of Gryphon's proprietary design, incorporating significant advancements in sensitivity and reduced distortion achieved through the employment of copper rings in the motor system, a larger magnet and an all-new surround. Even the signal leads are arranged for symmetrical loading of the cone.

The 11 drivers share the workload from 200 Hz to 25 kHz. The mid/high tower is extremely efficient, 96 dB (1 Watt, 2.83V, 1 meter) with an impedance that never dips below 4 Ohms, making the passive tower a very amplifier-friendly load.

Each of the 11 drivers is individually mounted in its own independent baffle up to 34 mm and attached to a 22 mm sub baffle breaking up the pathway through which vibrations would otherwise be transmitted in a single, shared baffle. The individual driver baffles are separated from the main baffle by a rubber gasket which simultaneously acts as a seal around the drive units to eliminate air leaks. The baffles are connected only via bolts and rubber rings to minimize vibration transmission.

Each tower consists of a central tweeter module and two separate mid/bass modules with five drivers each. Within these modules, three mid/bass units and two midrange units are housed in two separate, isolated chambers to prevent any unwanted interaction and reinforce the structural integrity of the tower.

Separately, the modules are convenient to move and set up. Once stacked and securely bolted together, they form an extremely rigid and highly damped enclosure, enhanced by the distinctive wraparound shell.

The HF tower is sonically integrated by an uncompromising crossover network based on the finest components available, including Duelund air-core inductors, flat-wound Jensen copper inductors and Duelund graphite resistors.

### The AMT Tweeter

While the high frequency drive unit in most speaker systems is typically

designated the "superstar" player, long experience has shown the Gryphon engineering crew that a far more balanced approach paying equally meticulous attention to the reproduction of the entire audible range (and beyond) will always yield a more consistent and well integrated result.

In short, a more natural, realistic and, above all, truly musical result. In our quest for a high frequency driver that would shine in its specified arena, yet mesh seamlessly with its companion drivers, Gryphon experimented extensively with tweeters representing a broad spectrum of exotic technologies and rare materials.

Based on comprehensive study, measurements and listening sessions, the extreme high-frequency range in the Gryphon Kodo has been entrusted to the extraordinary Mundorf Air Motion Transformer that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field. Following extensive research into materials and diaphragm geometry, the Kodo AMT employs a heat-resistant Kapton film base, aluminium conductor traces and an innovative fold geometry.

Because of the large surface area of its pleated structure, the Air Motion Transformer moves a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion for lightning fast transients with flat frequency response well beyond the audible range with negligible distortion and a total absence of compression.

For ideal integration of the high sensitivity (100 dB) tweeter with the acoustics of the listening space, the AMT tweeter incorporates external hot-swappable, hand-tuned Duelund graphite resistors for three-stage, user-accessible  $\pm 1$  dB tweeter adjustment. Empowering the user to adjust high frequency response for a seamless presentation without deleterious switches or rheostats, Duelund graphite resistors snap into place with convenient rear-panel clips, then connect with their original leads to screw terminals. The Gryphon Kodo high frequency module can deliver ideal high frequencies with mild roll-off (-1 dB), neutral response (0 dB) or mild boost (+1 dB) to integrate perfectly with the acoustics of the listening room.

**"The price is out of the world, but so is also the reward"**

*Audio & Cinema em Casa , Jorge Goncalves*

**"the more i recall how incredible it sounded, with tight clean deep bass, transparent midrange and lightning-fast highs, the more i want a pair. I very rarely ever gush this much over any product, so let this be your guide of how truly extraordinary the Gryphon Kodo is. If you have the means, I highly recommend getting a set. Cutting to the chase, the Gryphon Audio Designs Kodo has earned my Best Sound At HIGH END 2016 Award."**

*enjoy the music.com*



### Active Q Control

The Gryphon Q Controller is an innovative room-adaptive device that allows user adjustment of the total system resonance frequency and of system Q for ideal coupling to any room.

As a theoretical concept, active Q control was discussed in papers published in the 1950's by Linkwitz and Greiner, but never successfully implemented prior to the breakthrough Gryphon Cantata stand-mount loudspeaker in 2002, offering powerful new opportunities for extensive low-frequency adjustment and room integration.

Subsequent Gryphon floor-standing models – Poseidon (2004), Trident (2005), Pendragon (2013) and Trident II (2013) have all incorporated active Q control as well as built-in Gryphon power amplification for the bass section.

Unlike compromised, universal external amplifiers, purpose-built, on-board Gryphon bass amps are conceived and built exclusively for optimal integration with our custom-built drive units, advanced crossover networks, handmade crossover components, non-resonant enclosures and proprietary, user-adjustable room integration parameters. This extraordinary degree of integration delivers a level

of performance unattainable via any standard mix-and-match approach.

At the critical interface between amplification and loudspeaker, amplifiers are typically designed to ensure compatibility with the widest possible number of loudspeakers for obvious commercial reasons. And loudspeakers are designed for similar "universality."

Inevitably, there are factors which can make specific pairings less than optimal or even untenable: radical differences in tonality, low-power amp vs. low-sensitivity speakers, low current amp vs. low-impedance speakers, etc. As one of the very few High End manufacturers of complete system solutions from source components to amplification to loudspeakers, Gryphon has a uniquely valuable perspective on all relevant compatibility/synergy issues.

In order to elegantly and effectively resolve the electrical, mechanical and acoustical problems which plague lesser systems, the Gryphon Kodo incorporate a semi-active configuration with specially developed bass amplification. For extended headroom, available peak power is approximately ►



► 4,000 Watts or 4.5 horsepower. The dedicated, on-board Gryphon bass power amplifier weighs in at 70 kg per speaker!

Gryphon bass amps incorporate custom developed parts, the finest Sanken high current bipolar output transistors, linear power supply, large capacitor banks, DC servo-coupling, military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards and Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding. Ultra-wide bandwidth and zero negative feedback contribute to extreme speed and unconditional stability.

In short, they are true, no-compromise Gryphon power amplifiers born for one purpose only, to be a perfect match for the speaker's bass drivers, electronics and cabinet volume to an extent unrivalled by any conventional passive loudspeaker using external amplification.

#### Active Crossover Bias

In addition to increasing low-frequency extension for a given cabinet volume and improving bass control by direct-coupling the amp to the drivers, the Gryphon active approach also provides permanent 28 V biasing of crossover capacitors, originally introduced in the Gryphon Cantata. The considerable benefits include improved stability, body, tonal colour and im-

age coherence.

This extraordinary level of coordination and integration ensures an exceptional degree of bass control all the way down to those crucial subsonic notes that are felt more than heard. The signature of a Gryphon active deep bass system is absolute control with none of the sluggishness of more conventional systems.

It should be noted that the Kodo bass towers, as with the Poseidon and Pendragon, are not "subwoofers" in any conventional sense as they cross over at a higher point and, therefore, require more careful placement relative to the HF towers. This must not be compared with old-school systems such as the four-tower infinity's that are often seen positioned with the bass towers some distance away from the HF columns.

#### Room-Adaptive Q Controller

Essential to the exceptional deep bass performance and outstanding room integration of the Gryphon semi-active bass system is the Gryphon Q controller, ingeniously designed to exploit what others narrowly regard as a problem: an acoustical phenomenon known as room gain, i.e. the fact that in any room, the enclosed space will reinforce response below the room resonance frequency by 12 dB per octave. Since loudspeaker system response rolls off by 12 dB per octave below the loudspeaker's resonance frequency, the Gryphon Q Controller calculates complementary resonance and Q values for the loudspeaker and for the room to achieve resonance-free, extended deep bass response.

Due to the room-specific nature of resonance and Q (the resonance frequency is dependent upon the size of the room and the Q at the resonance frequency will depend on the degree of damping in the room), the necessary compensation can only be performed in situ in a given room.

Once system Q and room Q are "locked in", bass frequencies are coupled ideally to the room and are reproduced in perfect phase with the upper frequency range.

Bass parameters can be optimised for fast, seamless integration of the bass section with the upper/mid in any listening room.

Set-up of the Gryphon Q Controller via remote control is simplicity itself with a separate display that can be placed for clear visibility from the listening position.

Because bass frequencies now have their own dedicated amp, the amount of power needed to achieve a given sound pressure level from the upper/mid section is greatly reduced (typically by more than 50%), allowing you to make your choice of main amplifier exclusively on the basis of sound quality.

Significant effort and resources have been devoted to the development of the Gryphon Q Controller and active, integrated bass amplification with the objective of delivering extended deep bass with articulation, force and authority, completely independent of the acoustic environment.

The singular bass performance of the Gryphon Kodo semi-active system is the direct result of the implementation of active Q control and dedicated on-board amplification, heightening audience awareness of rhythmic subtleties and nuances as it immerses the listener in music's rhythmic power.



## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Kodo

- Four-way twin-tower loudspeaker
- Modular construction for enhanced structural integrity and convenient, safe assembly
- High frequency tower consists of three independent modules
- Duelund Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 16 – 25,000 Hz,  $\pm 3$  dB (depending on Q setting and room size)
- Separate active crossover network for each channel isolated in bass tower
- Remote control for Q setting, Bass Level and Low Cut
- Time-aligned front baffle curvature for identical arrival time from all drivers at the listening position
- 38 customized, extensively modified drive units
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Symmetrical vertical driver array for ideal point source presentation
- Mechanically independent baffles for each driver
- German Air Motion Transformer high frequency driver
- 4" midrange drivers with patented technologies and parts mounted in separate sealed chambers
- Proprietary Gryphon 5" mid/bass drivers mounted in separate sealed chambers
- Hand-adjusted passive mid/high crossover network pre-biased from the bass module
- Dual-magnet bass driver motor system for maximum force and precise focus
- Eight 8" bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive air displacement
- Custom designed Gryphon bass tower amplifiers capable of delivering 1000 Watts continuously to the drivers (4 ohms)
- Integrated Linkwitz-Greiner Q Controller with choice of pre-set Q settings for ideal low frequency integration in any room

- Four sealed bass modules with extensive internal bracing
- Pure, natural wool interior damping material
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark



# Gryphon Trident II

## Reference Standard Loudspeaker System

*The overwhelmingly positive reception of the Gryphon Poseidon, a four-tower system that occupied a considerable piece of domestic real estate, generated massive audiophile interest for a single-enclosure, full-range system that could perform to the same high standards in somewhat smaller rooms.*

The original Gryphon Trident was that system. Now, the Gryphon Trident II breaks new ground in audio performance, exploiting innovative drivers and cabinet construction technologies to create a direct music conduit with consummate sonic neutrality, textural purity and dynamic ease.

Revised versions of Gryphon Audio Designs products are few and far between for the simple reason that Gryphon has never brought a product to the marketplace, before it was fully ready for prime time. Because each product is allowed to mature in its own good time, the lifespan of a Gryphon model is far longer than that of the typical High End component that, if one is to believe the manufacturers, is suddenly outmoded and ripe for replacement after a single season.

Gryphon products are never "flavour of the month." They withstand the test of time and remain at the forefront in their respective categories for many years, because of the obsessive level of attention lavished on every aspect of the design.

Based on Gryphon's single-minded unity of purpose and tightly focused, well-defined objective - musical purity - change is never pursued for its own sake. Revisions are implemented only when they offer a clear, significant step forward in musicality.

Fortunately, innovation comes naturally at Gryphon Audio Designs, where we take equal pleasure in pure, ground-breaking research and in the unalloyed joy proud users the world over derive from the fruits of our labours.

Gryphon Trident II is housed in a slimmer, taller, massively braced enclosure with precisely contoured baffle and driver surrounds and baffle covering carefully selected and applied to effectively address baffle reflections and eliminate diffraction phenomena.

The most crucial upgrade in Trident II is the implementation of an AMT (Air Motion Transformer) high frequency driver with minimal mass for instantaneous response to the audio signal.

Because of its large surface area, the pleated diaphragm structure energises a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desirable point source sonic presentation. Eliminating fundamental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the Gryphon Trident II high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

By implementing a unique configuration of dedicated bass power amplifier in conjunction with heavily modified drivers, handmade crossover components, proprietary Q Control room integration and a non-resonant enclosure, the Gryphon Trident II elegantly sidesteps the electrical and mechanical problems which plague lesser systems consisting of randomly assembled stock components.

Conceptual and industrial design is as always by Gryphon founder Flemming E. Rasmussen.

### Constant Phase

While constant phase has been acknowledged as a theoretical ideal for several decades, making that lofty goal a practical reality demanded lateral thinking and numerous labour-intensive, custom-built components specially designed by Gryphon in close collaboration with the manufacturers of some of the world's finest drivers.

Living up to the extraordinary standards that set Gryphon loudspeakers in a class all their own, the Gryphon Trident II incorporates specially developed constant phase technologies to ensure that all drivers are in phase at all frequencies at all times. Few loudspeakers can truthfully make this claim and they are all made by Gryphon.

As any acoustician will attest, this is quite simply a staggering achievement.

Fortunately, it is also an achievement that any music lover ▶



► can immediately appreciate, as it effectively prevents any veiling or smearing in the temporal domain, allowing the Gryphon Trident II to re-create the original acoustic event with laser-sharp clarity, alacrity and precision.

Thanks to this exceptional level of musical performance and ingenious engineering, Gryphon was immediately accepted as a loudspeaker manufacturer of the first rank and praised for tackling the endeavour with the same innovative flair that has firmly established Gryphon as a major international player with amplification components and CD players widely regard as among the very best in the esoteric world of High End audio.

Gryphon Trident II will offer stunning audio quality in rooms of virtually any dimensions.

#### From Theory to Practice

In order to live up to the uncompromising design goal of perfect phase all the time at all frequencies, the Gryphon Trident II enclosure incorporates a concave curved front to form a direct angled, time-aligned system with identical distance from the acoustic centre of each driver to the listener.

All cone drivers are custom designed for low Q and minimal dynamic compression and built by an internationally respected Danish driver manufacturer committed to assembling drive units to Gryphon's strict specifications. Highly focused, ultra-linear triple-magnet systems ensure total control of cone motion in the midrange and bass drivers. Specially developed surrounds match the geometry of the driver diaphragm and the fiber-

glass cone material is layer damped. Dust caps are non-deformable, low-mass and highly rigid.

Two 5" Kevlar midrange drivers and four 8" bass units are precisely angled in a symmetrical vertical array above and below the extraordinary high-frequency Air Motion Transformer drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field.

The Trident II crossover network, based on wax-impregnated air-core inductors wound from copper foil and stacked foil capacitors potted in epoxy to resist mechanical interference, ensures undetectable, smooth transitions across the audible range.

28 V DC bias is applied to the capacitors, eliminating crossover distortion at zero electrical potential for audibly enhanced stability and substantial gains in body, timbral colour and image coherence.

#### Ideal In-Room Response

When it comes to loudspeaker-room interaction, most manufacturers cross their fingers and hope for the best. Rather than view the room as an enemy to be over-

come, the Gryphon Trident II is designed to work with the room, employing Gryphon's innovative room-adaptive technology to interface with the listening space via the on-board Q Controller.

Active Q control as a theoretical concept was introduced in the 1950's by Linkwitz and Greiner, but never successfully implemented until now.

Gryphon Q Control exploits what others narrowly regard as a problem: an acoustical phenomenon

**"When seated in the sweet spot this is the best Trident performance I've heard yet. Driven by the new Gryphon Diablo integrated, the sonic outcome really shows what this amplifier is capable off. Impressive is a humbled down word..."**

*Mono & Stereo, Slovenia*

**Trident II Awards from Top Audio Show in Russia**

- National Award
- Top High End Product Of The Year
- Nomination Speaker System above \$7000



known as room gain, the fact that in any room, the enclosed space will reinforce frequencies below the room's resonant frequency.

With room gain well defined and with the knowledge that a sealed loudspeaker's response rolls off below its resonant frequency, it is possible to calculate complementary resonance and Q values for the loudspeaker and for the room to achieve resonance-free bass response from the speaker in a real room.

The Trident II Q Controller features preset and custom settings to seamlessly match the bass response of the speaker to the characteristics of virtually any room. Set-up of the Q Controller via remote control from the listening position is simplicity itself.

Phase coherent Trident II bass is deep and solid, retaining all the natural tactile and textural qualities of live music.

The built-in bass amplifier features the finest Sanken transistors and custom developed parts. Ultra-wide bandwidth and zero negative feedback contribute to the amplifier's extreme speed and unconditional stability.

#### Inspiration and Motivation

For fit and finish to match its performance, Trident II side



panels incorporate an innovative modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child's play, offering the Trident

II owner the option of re-dressing and updating the exterior of the loudspeakers at any time.

As was once the norm in High End audio, Gryphon Audio Designs is still run by enthusiasts able and willing to take risks and push back boundaries out of sheer curi-

osity as to what awaits in uncharted territories where no one has gone before.

Like every Gryphon product from the very beginning, the Gryphon Trident loudspeaker system is based on rare insight into the true needs of the music enthusiast. This is the wellspring of inspiration and motivation that brings the Gryphon Trident II to life.

The result is a dramatic increase in dimensionality, a heightened sense of freedom in the bass and enhanced presence and focus.

Gryphon Audio Designs is proud to offer to the privileged few Gryphon Trident II, a direct connection to the souls of the performers.

**"That something so large, so solid, so apparently immovable can react so quickly and with such a deft touch continues to surprise and delight, while the phenomenal coherence and integrity of the musical whole that is achievable with these speakers is an object lesson in what high-end audio should be doing - bringing the performance home. Demanding on first acquaintance, they quickly settle into the sort of rewarding, entertaining and involving behavior that promises a long and fruitful relationship."**

**"...if you have the space and the money, if you value fit, finish and flawless workmanship, if you like the idea of something a little different to the crowd, but most of all, if you really want music as opposed to sound, then the Gryphon speakers could be just your cup of Earl Grey."**

*Audio-Beat.com, February 25, 2013*

#### Gryphon Trident

- awarded best product of 2010:

**"The Trident brought tears to my eyes when listening to violin"**

*Monthly Audio Mag. of Korea, January 2011*



## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Trident II

- Three-way loudspeaker with on-board bass amplifier
- Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 16 – 27,000 Hz, -3 dB (depending on Q setting and room size)
- Remote control for Q setting, Bass Level, Mute and Low Cut
- Time-aligned front baffle curvature for identical arrival time from all drivers at the listening position
- Ultra-fast Air Motion Transformer tweeter with low-mass pleated metal diaphragm
- Customised, extensively modified Danish bass and midrange drive units
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Symmetrical vertical driver array for ideal point source presentation
- Four Gryphon 8" bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive air displacement
- Custom designed Gryphon bass amplifiers capable of delivering 500 Watts continuously (8 ohms) per channel
- Integrated Linkwitz-Greiner Q Controller with preset and custom Q settings for ideal low frequency integration in any room
- Individually adjusted passive mid/high crossover network
- Triple-magnet bass/midrange driver motor system for maximum force and precise focus
- Sealed enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Combination of pure wool and synthetic interior damping materials
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark

# Gryphon Pantheon Reference Loudspeaker System



*While it would be arrogant to refer to The Gryphon Pantheon as a "compact" loudspeaker, it is, despite its imposing, stylish presence, the slimmest floor-standing model in the exclusive, luxurious Gryphon Audio Designs loudspeaker range.*

Drawing heavily on proprietary, innovative technologies and customised parts developed for and introduced in the Gryphon Pendragon and Trident II loudspeakers, the Pantheon lives up to the same exceptional standards of musicality, build quality and stylish design for an enhanced musical experience with soul and vitality.

Gryphon Pantheon is housed in a sleek, tall, massively braced enclosure with precisely contoured modular baffle and driver surrounds and baffle covering carefully selected and applied to effectively address baffle reflections and eliminate diffraction phenomena.

#### Constant Phase, Constant Musical Joy

In keeping with every Gryphon loudspeaker before it, the Gryphon Pantheon incorporates specially developed constant phase technologies to ensure that all drivers are in phase at all frequencies at all times, eliminating deleterious slurring in the temporal domain, allowing the Gryphon Pantheon to re-create the original acoustic event with holographic realism and ultimate resolution.

#### High Frequency Energy and Clarity

Like all Gryphon loudspeakers, the high-frequency range in the Gryphon Pantheon is handled by an extraordinary Air Motion Transformer (AMT) drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded metal sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field for instantaneous response to the audio signal.

Because of its large surface area, the pleated structure moves a ▶



► large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desirable point source sonic presentation. Eliminating fundamental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the AMT high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

#### Danish Drive

Pantheon cone drivers are custom designed for low Q and minimal dynamic compression to our exacting specifications by ScanSpeak, an internationally respected Danish driver manufacturer for over four decades.

The dual 8" bass drivers have been specially developed and mounted in separate, precision-tuned reflex chambers to achieve levels of bass extension and power rare in any loudspeaker, regardless of size and cost.

The dual 5" midrange drivers incorporate tightly focused, ultra-linear magnet systems to ensure total control of the motion of the layer-damped fiberglass cones. Specially developed surrounds match the geometry of the driver diaphragm and the dust caps are non-deformable, low-mass and highly rigid.

#### Seamless Networking

To achieve the ambitious objective of perfect phase at all frequencies and realize a truly seamless integration of the selected drive units, a fourth order filter network is utilised based exclusively on the finest components (Duelund, Jensen, Holm, Mundorf) in a layout carefully calculated to eliminate electromagnetic interaction and fitted to a decoupling platform to prevent vibration.

Incorporating the very best high current, low-loss foil capacitors and low distortion, low saturation inductors with negligible DC resistance carefully selected for their sonic and electrical char-



acteristics, the hand-adjusted Pantheon crossover network performs with impeccable precision and transparency.

Minimal internal wiring with Gryphon Teflon insulated, silver-plated oxygen-free copper is employed. The crossover connects to a power amplifier via custom designed Gryphon screw terminals that ensure a tight and durable electrical contact.

#### Active Bias

The crossover network is pre-biased by an 18V battery for constant charge to the electrolytic capacitors in the impedance correction circuit in order to eliminate crossover distortion at zero electric potential, resulting in audibly enhanced stability and substantial gains in body, timbral colour and image coherence. Operating the battery-biased crossover in "Class A" mode ensures a smoother, more richly detailed three-dimensional presentation.

#### Boxing Clever

Tall loudspeakers with multiple drivers mounted in a long front baffle inevitably encounter issues of diffraction, resonances and flexing in the long, wide panel due to cone motion and the considerable pressure build-up inside the cabinet. Typically, manufacturers apply elaborate, complex measures in an attempt to tame these phenomena.

At Gryphon, we adhere to the old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In short, our "solution" is simply to elegantly sidestep these problems altogether.

To do so, Gryphon Pantheon incorporates independent baffle elements for each driver, breaking up the pathway through which vibrations would otherwise be transmitted in a single, shared baffle. With an overall thickness of more than 7 cm, the organic design of the Pantheon baffle becomes the next best thing to an immovable object.

The five separate Pantheon baffles also allow precision time alignment of the individual drivers

based on the now classic, subtle Gryphon front baffle curvature. Meticulous attention has gone into the contouring of the baffle and driver surrounds to eliminate diffraction. Sound-absorbent material on reflective surfaces near the AMT high frequency driver prevents diffraction and smearing in the crucial time domain.

Beneath its finely sculpted exterior, Gryphon Pantheon offers an inert, non-resonant platform for the drive units combining extensive internal bracing and damping material.

The substantial feet provide a rock-solid foundation that lends the Pantheon system a firm grip on musical reality.

#### Free Style

The exterior design is distinctively Gryphon with a wide range of custom finish options and the opportunity to personalise your Gryphon Pantheon in the real-wood finish of your choice. In selecting a finish for your Gryphon Pantheon loudspeakers, the possibilities are limited solely by your imagination. Because the side panels are based on a modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child's play, your choice is no longer a one-time only, lifetime proposition.

As a Pantheon owner, you gain access to virtually unlimited custom finish options, not only at the time of original purchase, but also at any time after that, as often as you desire.



## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Pantheon

- Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 25 – 27,000 Hz, -3 dB
- Hand-adjusted passive crossover network
- Battery-powered bias for selected crossover capacitors
- Ultra-fast Air Motion Transformer tweeter with low-mass pleated metal diaphragm
- Dual Danish ScanSpeak 8" bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive, controlled air displacement
- 8" bass drivers in separate precision-tuned reflex enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Custom designed Danish ScanSpeak 5" midrange drive units fitted with special basket, surround and centre dome and mounted in independent sealed enclosure
- Tightly focused, ultra-linear bass/midrange motor systems for maximum force and precise focus
- Mechanically independent baffles for each driver
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Symmetrical vertical driver array for ideal point source presentation
- Combination of pure wool and synthetic interior damping materials
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark



# Gryphon Mojo S

*As the third-generation heir to Gryphon's very first loudspeaker, the stand-mounted Cantata (2002-2008) and the original Gryphon Mojo (2009-2016), the Mojo S comes with a vaunted lineage that immediately raises exceptionally high expectations.*

Fortunately, because it draws heavily on the heritage of the Gryphon Kodo, our latest, cost no object, ultimate experimental test platform, the Mojo S is more than up the challenge, inheriting components, technologies and assembly techniques developing specifically for the Kodo.

Unlike most speakers in its weight class, the Mojo S was not built to a predetermined price point. Therefore, it lives up to the Gryphon philosophy of designing and building drivers correctly from the start, rather than using intrinsically flawed off-the-shelf drivers and attempting to compensate for their shortcomings with an overly complicated crossover.

Designed for seamless integration in a specific interval of room dimensions, Mojo S proudly joins the Gryphon Kodo in the uncompromising use of the finest hand-made components rarely seen in speakers of this size - or any size, for that matter.

Because of Mojo S' perfect phase linearity, extended frequency response and fine-tuning options, it is substantially more revealing and more musical than any other loudspeaker anywhere near its size. Be prepared for a radical revision of everything you thought you knew about compact loudspeakers and their capabilities.

The Mojo S drivers were not chosen because they are trendy, flavour-of-the-month favourites, but carefully selected through comprehensive measurement and listening specifically to form a perfect sonic symbiosis. As a consequence, they require no overly complex crossover network to beat the drivers into submission and compensate for intrinsic shortcomings.

Driver weaknesses have been prevented, leaving no need to "cure" them with unnecessary crossover components that in conventional designs can suck the life and energy out of your music.

With its distinctive wraparound wings and contemporary styling worthy of the finest domestic interiors, Gryphon Mojo S is available in a broad range of distinctive colour options. Custom finishes in multiple layer semi-gloss or high gloss two-pack automotive paint with a very hard surface are available to order.

## Mojo Drivers

The high-frequency range is handled by an extraordinary Mundorf Air Motion Transformer drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field.

With minimal mass, the AMT tweeter, invented by Dr. Oskar Heil, responds instantaneously to the audio signal and because of its large surface area, the pleated diaphragm structure energises a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desirable point source sonic presentation. Eliminating funda-

mental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the Gryphon Mojo S high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

While such technologically advanced drivers rarely appear in comparably sized loudspeakers, Gryphon selected only the best to deliver Mojo magic.

## Diablo 120 and Mojo S on Review

**"embodies everything the brand stands for, from the striking aesthetics to performance that is both high-end and highly musical."**

**"what it does deliver in combination with the Mojos, is a sense of unburstable musical enthusiasm, dynamic headroom, and rhythmic authority – in a package that's easier on the wallet, considerably easier on the running costs, and demands a lot less real estate."**

hi-fi+

**"Now the music becomes emotionally accessible and invested. The rest of it—the usual talk of frequency response, tonal balance, soundstaging etc. – is just small print."**



To live up to the Air Motion Transformer tweeter, Mojo S employs a vertical symmetrical driver array with identical SEAS 5.5" bass/midrange units with a free-air resonance of 44 Hz and a mere 7.7 grams of moving mass.

Pulp paper cones, chosen for excellent linearity and controlled behaviour well beyond the driver's designated operating range, eliminate any need for invasive corrective measures to reduce the negative effects of cone break-up.

The Mojo S dual port reflex system is tuned to 52Hz with a flow resistor in the mouth of each port. Carefully calculated resistive porting eliminates the resonant ringing which is an undesirable side effect in so many bass reflex designs with forced vented alignments. Instead, Gryphon Mojo S offers ideally balanced low frequency response that seamlessly integrates the port contribution with the direct output of the bass/mid drivers.

Dual 5.5" drivers provide larger surface area and high speed with minimal lag and overhang and allow a narrower front to reduce baffle diffraction. Built on die-cast baskets, the rigid, yet open, structure prevents built-up compression behind the cone.

## Crossover

The Mojo S crossover network borrows heavily from a wide array of exclusive components newly developed for the top of the line Gryphon Kodo system.

All parts are hard-wired point-to-point with special Teflon hard-insulated silver wire, ▶



► eliminating high-resistance printed circuit boards. Extreme hand-trimmed Duelund graphite resistors, legendary Jensen air-core paper/oil inductors and reference class, low-memory, precision Mundorf capacitors are components rarely seen in commercial loudspeaker designs because of their prohibitive cost. It is even rarer to find this level of parts quality specified for a stand-mounted monitor of Mojo S' compact dimensions.

Exploiting the inherent roll-off of the AMT tweeter, a fourth order 2 kHz crossover network ensures linear phase at all frequencies a remarkable accomplishment achieved only by Gryphon Audio Designs.

The filter incorporates external exchangeable Duelund graphite resistors for optional three-stage, user-accessible  $\pm 0.5$  dB tweeter adjustment. Empowering the user to adjust high frequency response for a seamless presentation without deleterious switches or rheostats, Duelund graphite resistors snap into place with convenient rear-panel clips, then connect with their

original leads to screw terminals. The Mojo S system can deliver ideal high frequencies with mild roll-off (-0.5 dB), neutral response (0 dB) or mild boost (+0.5 dB) to integrate perfectly with the acoustics of the listening room.

#### Enclosures

Typically, speakers claiming ideal time alignment employ a simple sloped front, because it is inexpensive to build and assemble. In order to achieve Gryphon's uncompromising design goal of perfect phase at all times at all frequencies, the Mojo S enclosure incorporates a front baffle consisting of three separate angled sections up to 34 mm thick which attach to a 22 mm sub baffle. The independent driver frames and the main baffle are separated by a rubber gasket which simultaneously acts as a seal around the drive units to eliminate air leaks. The baffles are connected only via bolts and rubber rings to minimize vibration transmission.

Meticulous attention has gone into the contouring of the baffle and driver surrounds to eliminate diffraction. Sound-absorbent material on reflective surfaces near the AMT high frequency driver prevents diffraction and smearing in the crucial time domain.

The Mojo S baffle ensures true time alignment, for exceptional levels of transparency and musical realism. The treated baffle also reduces reflections from floor and ceiling, for enhanced clarity.

Beneath its finely sculpted exterior, Gryphon Mojo S offers an inert, non-resonant platform for the drive units, combining extensive internal bracing and damping material.

The elegant, open string grille discourages attempts by inquisitive fingers to touch the drivers.

The rear of the cabinet is a dual-layer construction of aluminium and MDF. The crossover network is strategically placed inside to help break up internal standing waves. The inside side panels are damped with bitumen and the tweeter's own chamber is critically damped with a mixture of felt and wool.

The speaker terminals are Gryphon's proprietary five-way terminals also found on Gryphon's finest loudspeakers and amplifiers.

#### Unlimited Options

Gryphon Mojo S offers virtually unlimited custom finish options. Assembled using proprietary techniques, Gryphon products offer a service unique in the audio field: SideSpin, the ability to personalise your choice of finish not only at the time of original purchase, but also to replace side panels at any later date to keep pace with your evolving personal style and interior décor.

SideSpin is a consequence of our philosophy that the Gryphon owner deserves not only sound quality to the highest audiophile standards, but also a unique and highly personal design statement equally pleasing to the eye.

#### Upstanding Style

The stylish, dedicated MDF Mojo S stand incorporates a specially designed base with two polyoxometalate feet and a single metal spike for optimal decoupling from the floor for effective prevention of transfer of vibration. For totally inert support, the column can be filled with sand to add mass for even more effective damping.

The substantial supports provide a rock-solid foundation that lends the Gryphon Mojo S a firm grip on musical reality.







## Unlimited Custom Finish Options

Because the side panels of the Gryphon Mojo S, Pantheon and Trident II loudspeakers and Colosseum power amplifier are based on an innovative modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child's play, the choice of finish is no longer a one-time only, lifetime commitment.

This design feature allows Gryphon to offer a service unique in the audio field: access to virtually unlimited custom finish options not only at the time of original purchase, but also at any time after that.

This exclusive service and extraordinary level of flexibility was pioneered by Gryphon for the now discontinued Cantata loudspeaker system to let the owner keep pace with evolving personal style and interior decor. It is our philosophy that the Gryphon owner deserves not only sound quality to the highest audiophile standards, but also a personal design statement equally pleasing to the eye.

With the exception of illegal or hazardous materials and endangered species, we can accommodate any request. The possibilities are limited solely by the client's imagination and budget.

Examples of Gryphon custom finishes are shown above and on page 88.

## Features & Specifications

### Gryphon Mojo S

- Two-way, three-driver loudspeaker system
- Duelund Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 37 Hz – 32 kHz, -3 dB (depending on room size)
- Time-aligned concave front baffle for identical arrival time from all drivers at the listening position
- Mechanically independent baffles for each driver
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Hand-adjusted, hard-wired crossover network based on the finest components
- Ultra-fast Air Motion Transformer tweeter with low-mass pleated metal diaphragm
- User-selectable resistors for fine-tuning of in-room high-frequency response
- Reinforced enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Pure, natural wool interior damping material
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Specially designed base with two polyoxometalate feet and a single metal spike for optimal decoupling
- Custom finish options
- Designed and hand-built in Denmark



### Mojo

- (US slang, West African origin)
1. A charm or magic spell
  2. The art of casting magic spells
- "S" for Superior

# Gryphon Accessories

*Few people are aware that way back when Gryphon Audio Designs was just a twinkle in founder Flemming E. Rasmussen's eye, he already had considerable experience in the design and manufacture of cables and plugs. In fact, Rasmussen was the first to introduce PC-OCC (Pure Crystal Ohno Continuous Casting) cables outside Japan.*

For practical and economic reasons, conventional cable is made from extruded metals in a high-speed process involving forced, rapid cooling. PC-OCC technology can briefly be described as slow, continuous casting of the wire strand which is kept in liquid form as long as possible until natural cooling forms the material. The starting point - the base material - is the same, but the results are very different. The PC-OCC process ensures greater purity with far fewer gaps in the crystalline structure to oxidize over time. Basically, PC-OCC forms an infinitely long single crystal.

Having heard about this breakthrough, Rasmussen went to Japan to visit the first factory to produce wire using this innovative process. Impressed with what he saw, Rasmussen negotiated an agreement to introduce the technology in Europe. The cables were sold under the Signal Master brand and were an immediate success.

In Germany, distribution was handled by Oehlbach and the cables played a substantial role in establishing the position that Oehlbach holds to this day. Openness to new technology and materials allowed Gryphon to re-think cable design from the ground up. Like our acclaimed audio components, Gryphon cables are based on the belief that simplicity in all aspects is preferable to corrective measures to counteract opposing forces. This is why Gryphon cables have never utilized more or less "magical" boxes with "top-secret circuitry." Such boxes are often found attached to some very ordinary wire.

Gryphon was also an early pioneer in the use of long-crystal silver conductors, demonstrating that silver is an outstanding conductor and that a long-crystal structure completely eliminates the subjective sonic hardness that silver cables often were blamed for. Silver is available in various levels of quality and silver-plated copper cables in particular were heavily promoted at the time.

Gryphon employed only the finest and purest silver in the PSC1 (Planar Speaker Cable 1) and later went so far as to gold-plate the silver conductor to prevent oxidation of the silver that could impact conductive properties and degrade sonic performance.

Gryphon was also among the first to use gold-embedded silver conductors. However, it takes more than fine conductive materials to make a great cable. Good conductors become great when properly selected for their purpose and when the geometry of the other materials matches the quality of the conductors. Tight mechanical construction has always been a central aspect of Gryphon cable design, maintaining the geometry of the cable to effectively isolate the conductor from vibration and microphonic effects. From

the beginning, key features such as Teflon insulation and acknowledgment of the importance of effective shielding have also been high priorities.

Many manufacturers have found themselves caught in the trap of making cables that narrowly complement the sound of their own audio components - a synergistic effect - but Gryphon has always viewed this as coloration somewhere in the reproduction chain. Just like Gryphon amplification and source components, our cables stand on their own merits with universally fine performance in any combination.

Neutrality is the core of the Gryphon formula for correct sound. Sound that is "nice" or "sweet" is simply euphonic coloration, but sound that is correct is... well, correct. It is a sad truth that cable as a product category has been the subject of much ▶



**Gryphon VIP Series Speaker Cable**

► myth-making and frequent snake oil explanations. Often, more creativity and innovative thinking go into marketing than into the design of the actual product.

As with so many other things, the quality of the cable must ultimately speak for itself and prove its suitability for the purpose for which it was created, i.e. to ensure that information is transferred from point A to point B without loss or change of any kind.

Ours is a holistic, purist approach to the design of audio equipment – sound from the performer is conveyed to the music lover intact, correct, alive and engaging. Anything else is just colouration - and colourations, no matter how

"euphonic" they may be, are still wrong. We extend a cordial invitation to audition our cables. They will amaze in conjunction with a system based on ultra-High End Gryphon products and will be a welcome addition to any high-resolution audio system.



**Gryphon VIP Series  
Speaker Cable**



**Gryphon VIP Series  
Interconnect**



**Gryphon  
Guideline  
Reference**



**Gryphon  
VIP Series  
Powercord**



**Gryphon  
Headline**



*Product may be supplied in different packaging than illustrated.*

# Gryphon Atlas Spikes

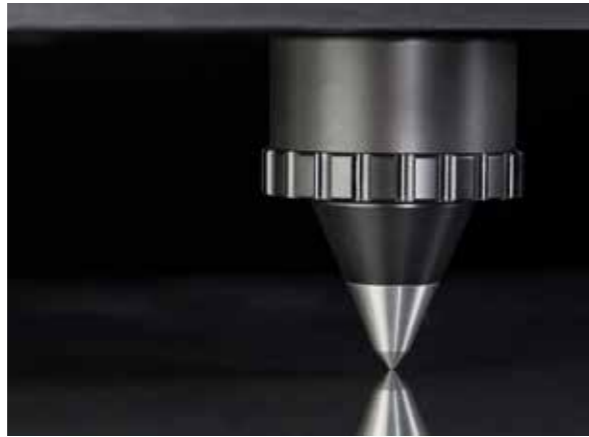
## Right to the Point

While it is generally accepted that audio equipment benefits from strict resonance control, there are two schools of thought on how best to achieve this end:

1. Absorption/dispersion, using padded contact areas, springs, viscous damping, soft, rubbery feet, etc., to convert resonances to heat.
2. Mechanical earthing, using spikes or cones to divert resonances away from vibration-sensitive components (speakers, disc player, DAC, amplifier, turntable, cable/satellite TV box, etc.) where they could do audible harm.

Unfortunately, many accessories in the first category, while claiming to provide vibration isolation, typically offer a largely random combination of coupling and decoupling of the audio component to the underlying surface. Because of the different resonant frequencies of the materials employed, they will have highly variable impact on energy transfer and, consequently, exert unpredictable influence on musical performance.

Gryphon Atlas Spikes are assembled from carefully selected parts made of Polyoxymethylene (POM), aluminium and



tempered steel. Extensive listening tests confirm that the mechanical characteristics of this specific combination of materials make it an ideal, one-way conduit for resonances. Gryphon research established that the size,

shape and material of spikes can have significant influence on sound quality. Some materials can actually store some of the energy that they are intended to evacuate.

Gryphon Atlas spikes create a uni-directional evacuation path between the equipment and the outside world, acting as mechanical diodes, conducting energy in one direction only and effectively blocking it the other way.

These no-nonsense accessories, based on real science, include M4 screw threads for easy mounting under loudspeakers and adhesive pads for carefully balanced placement under audio components, regardless of total weight. The height of each Gryphon Atlas can be fine-tuned and experimentation with positioning directly under transformers or motors will reveal the optimum set-up, with across the board sonic improvements in such critical areas as bass firmness, soundstage focus and overall clarity and openness.

Isolation with Gryphon Atlas spikes will be most effective with lighter weight components or components with moving parts inside. Ultra-heavy products with internal damping and decoupling, such as Gryphon amplifiers, will likely not benefit, unless the floor or shelf is very lively due to vibration.

We highly recommend the use of Gryphon Atlas spikes especially in conjunction with vibration-sensitive tube amplification, motor-driven components such as turntables and disc players and amplifiers with extensive internal wiring.

By providing a minimal, single point of contact, Gryphon Atlas eliminates the adverse effects of vibration, resonance and microphonics, to take your audio system that crucial step closer to ultimate neutrality and transparency.



# Gryphon Black Spikes ST

Because softer surfaces represent a unique set of resonance control challenges, Gryphon offers the Black Spike ST (Steel Tip), fitted with a precision-tooled steel tip for optimal energy transfer to a softer underlying surface.

The height of each steel tip can be adjusted individually for perfect levelling. Gryphon Black Spikes ST create an evacuation path between the equipment and the outside world, acting as mechanical diodes, conducting energy in one direction and effectively blocking it the other way.

The Gryphon Preamp is the first commercially available product to

offer spikes as standard. Gryphon research has shown that the size, shape and material of spikes can have significant influence on sound quality. Specifically, brass, steel and other hard materials can actually store some of the energy that they are intended to transfer.

Gryphon Black Spikes are made of Polymethylmethacrylate, because extensive listening sessions confirm that the mechanical characteristics of this rigid synthetic make it an ideal bridge for vibration.



# Merchandise

Gryphon Audio Designs now gives you the opportunity to purchase Gryphon merchandise, instruction manuals and selected accessories.

Visit [www.gryphon.dk/merchandise](http://www.gryphon.dk/merchandise).



**The Gryphon Cap**  
Cool cap – one size fit all - classic, vented baseball style in high quality with embroidered Gryphon decal on the shade.



**Scarf**  
Dark grey, 100% Alpaca wool  
High quality scarf in natural wool, with Gryphon logo. 30x120cm



**Gryphon Polo Shirt Long Sleeve**  
Black pique polo with long sleeve in a very comfortable material with Gryphon logo



**Gryphon Polo Shirt**  
Classic Black pique polo in a very comfortable material with Gryphon logo.



**Gryphon Sweatshirt with hood**  
Very comfortable and roomy sweatshirt with long sleeves and hood and Gryphon logo.



**Gryphon Quilted Vest**  
Comfortable and warm, black, quilted vest in lightweight version with Gryphon logo



**Plaid**  
Very popular, 100% pure new wool plaid, almost big enough for the whole family.



**Georg Jensen Business Cardholder**  
Genuine Gryphon business cardholder made by prestigious Danish designhouse, Georg Jensen.



## CUSTOMIZATION

All Gryphon speakers have unlimited Custom Finish Options. For example Kodo in Walnut, Trident in leather, Mojo in carbon and Pantheon in high gloss.



The first Gryphon, 1985

*"I stopped "testing" and simply started to listen to music, there was the real magic in the Gryphon preamplifier"*

Leo Fung, HK 1989

The Gryphon Preamplifier